

THE BUYING SPREE IN CANADIAN HOMES

CANADA'S WEEKLY NEWSMAGAZINE

AUGUST 28, 1995 \$3.50

# Maclean's

## IN HIS OWN DEFENCE

**PAUL BERNARDO  
INSISTS HE IS NOT  
A KILLER**



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CANADA'S WEEKLY NEWSMAGAZINE  
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## In his own defence

**36** In the eleventh week of one of the most horrific murder trials in Canadian history, Paul Bernardo, a longtime bookkeeper accused of killing two teenage girls, coolly testified on his own behalf in a Toronto courtroom. He admitted to "terrible" acts—including abducting and raping Leslie Mahaffy and Kristen French. But, he maintained, "I didn't kill these girls."



## A buying spree

**30** Lower mortgage rates, the creation of new jobs in regional pockets of Canada, economic optimism and abundant supply are combining to boost demand—and prices—for residential real estate.

## A star on top of her game

**42** For the first time since a deranged fan snatched her during a 1993 tournament in Germany, tennis star Monica Seles was back in tournament action. And as Seles—co-named No. 1 with Steffi Graf—took on the star-studded field at the du Maurier Open in Toronto, what mattered was not how she did in the tournament—but that she played at all.



## Politician, Beware

Now, make no mistake: Bill Bradley wants something. It is assumed that his goal is the presidency and that he is laying the groundwork for a fight to topple Bill Clinton in the 1996 primaries (he denied that), or to run as a third party candidate (he did not rule that out). Still, that use of the intellectual forces of the Democrats would choose not to seek a fourth Senate term—for the stated reason—is revealing.

Earlier this morning, a British MP made it clear that fossils about the system are not an isolated phenomenon. Dudley Fotherby, who represents the district of Kensington, announced that he would not can again because he does not have enough votes to do this. This is a signpost that many politicians have long harbored about many of their representatives, especially in Britain, where the Conservative boasts 51 MPs, (many to 500 with boundary changes). "Modern society needs fewer politicians, not more," Fotherby told his pleasantly stunned constituents.

The very same disconnection from the world that the Bowdler and



# LETTERS

## 'Forgotten casualties'

While Canadians commemorate the 50th anniversary of the end of the Pacific war, spare a moment to think about others for whom the war was not yet over. The 400,000 so-called casualties who were abducted from their villages by the Japanese armed forces to serve as "comfort stations" where they were raped by 10 to 20 men a night, for months or years, the thousands of young men from the occupied territories who were forced to work for the Japanese military-industrial complex at military drafts into the armed forces. Thousands died of malnutrition or were worked to death. These are the forgotten casualties of the war. Many survived and many seek compensation.

Robert Michot,  
Oshika, Japan

Unfortunately, the article "Questions of guilt and shame" (World Aug. 10) contained some errors. Roger "Seun" came spelled Cyn, now national president of the Hoog Kong Veterans Association of Canada. Les Birtwell, whose name is spelled Birtwell, was not called "the son of a Borneo" by Winston Churchill, but "the son of a Ceylon," for warning the Allied command at critical Japanese fleet movements in the Indian Ocean.

J. G. Bmidt,  
Ottawa

The article on Canadian prisoners held captive by the Japanese in the Second World War was disheartening, particularly the comments of those who state we must understand and move on despite the grossness of veterans that are still unresolved. It is a national disgrace that the bitterness of these veterans continues to be fuelled by a Canadian government reluctant to acknowledge the suffering they endured through their wartime service. These victims and their survivors should be provided with appropriate compensation, if not simple. Until the issue is resolved, there cannot be any understanding of Japanese actions towards its prisoners, or any moving on.

Doris Ramirez,  
Ottawa

## Hay, Foth

As a longtime reader and occasional advertiser of Dr. Foth, I realize I risk incriminating myself by suggesting he is a crook. The holes that the disarming Doctor ab-



Canadian and British prisoners of the war's end; grievances continue to go unresolved

sterned in the dachas were not wheat, but either hay or straw. More important, our beloved Roughriders belong to all of the province ("Saskatchewan is the football way," *Alta* International, Aug. 14). The name was officially changed from the Regina Roughriders to the Saskatchewan Roughriders in 1948, the same year they adopted green and white as their colors. The football club has a network of Rader leaps throughout the province and various other: helmets come from more than 200 communities. All of an Saskatchewan look forward to seeing Fothemphus at the Grey Cup in Regina this November.

Dick Brinkley,  
Regina

entirely awarded to this country's native-awards that are based on legally binding treaties. First British, then Canadian, governments repeatedly failed to honor their treaty obligations to them and their cultures were pushed off their traditional lands in favor of white settlers. It has taken decades of court action in this century to force the descendants of the original European signatories to honor the Canadian side of most of these deals. Now, we expect natives to follow our rules and live our way of life. One can times their treaty lands and let them have sovereignty in them. Let them finally have control over their own money. Let them rebuild their societies in their own ways. I say it's time we give our natives a try.

Kelly Aschke,  
Midland, Ont.

## A different view

With all due respect to Dept. Gary Rie of the Ottawa police department, Brian Smith, this innocent victim, was not in the wrong place at the wrong time ("The price of fame," *Canada*, Aug. 14). Jeffrey Arnsperg was, Mr. Smith had every right to be where he was on Aug. 14 as he walked out of the CIBC broadcast centre in Ottawa. It was his alleged murderer who should not have been there with a loaded firearm. Let's not continue to blame the victim in such cases.

Peter Dawson,  
Stoney Creek, Ont.

## 'Give natives a try'

I am compelled to respond to Bruce Fraser's column "Time to get tough with the courts" (July 10). Fraser reports questionable last-minute rewards and special dispensation from the rule of law have been

## Personal courage

Your editorial "Remembering Mickey" (from the *Editor Aug. 21*) portrayed the highs and lows of Mickey Maude's life, and concluded that his antics hurt himself, but I suggest it goes far beyond that. Like others of us who have received life-saving transplants, Maude probably experienced a profound sense of gratitude to the donor and his or her family who had the courage to think of others at a time of great personal loss. And in the wake of his own struggle following transplant, Maude also thought of others. His goal was to have our nation's football fans sign organ-donor cards.

Jim Maxwell,  
Fletcher Falls, Ont.

Maudie's a brilliant reader, you're not alone may be asked the story and clearly those people who address our deepest religious needs. Your letters to the *Editor* "Maudie's message" 777 Box 30, Toronto, Ont. M2T 2A7 Tel: (416) 596-7736  
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# OPENING NOTES

## Serious funny business

They may be stultified in their day jobs, but when they do not meet and sily converse, the dapperly dressed do-gooders are ready to try to make the world laugh. Last week in Medicine Hat, Alta., 110 down from across North America, with names like Nations and Canada, gathered for a week at Clown Coop the camp, the first of its kind in Canada, featured not just practical jokes, but also rigorous training sessions in which the clowns fine-tuned their skills in everything from improvisation to comic timing. They also learned about clowning with a purpose—using their skills to contribute to community and social programs such as working in a hospital and day-care centres—and the hard code of ethics, which covers such topics as professional conduct in

public and reminds clowns to play practical jokes on each other, rather than the audience.

The happy campers, who ranged in age from 13 to 80-plus, were as diverse as the past jobs on their resumes. "We've got everything from engineers to university professors to folks who are professional clown families," says camp organizer Penny Perly (Perly is the clown). Char Holzhauer (Kiddo), 70, of Great Falls, Mont., who has entertained at senior homes and hospitals for the past 13 years, says that clowning gives her the chance to be "completely naïve." Stephen Breen (Bones) of Calgary is a 29-year-old comic who says he hopes that clowning will one day lead to his becoming a director of feature films. For some people, clowning around is serious business.



At Clown Coop in Medicine Hat, professionals



Canadian troops on duty in Bosnia: 'laughstock'

## Derision at the front

Canadian peacekeepers in Bosnia have taken a lot of laughs since they arrived in Sarajevo in April, 1995. They have been held hostage by Serbian Serbs, harassed by Bosnian government troops, and overruled in this month's Croat offensive. But another target of their anger is their own government in Ottawa, which sends Canadian peacekeepers as peace-keeping cats.

base at Visoko, known as CAN BIZ G. Canada has never been among the more bellicose of peacekeeping nations in its dealings with the warring factions. But the decision by politicians to override the senior UN military commander in the field—a British brigadier general—"has made us a laughingstock," said one Canadian soldier who has not helped the morale of the Canadians, who were already demoralized by the UN's

## A sitcom in cyberland

Microsoft's Windows 95, the computer software operating system that lets the stores this week, is one of the most bullish products produced in recent memory. Now, what is being billed as the world's first cyber-sitcom is also getting on the Windows 95 bandwagon. The Microsoft Windows 95 Video Guide is a six-disc educational video featuring actors Matthew Perry and Jennifer Aniston, co-stars of NBC's hit sitcom Friends. For \$19.99, the viewer can hear Aniston practice the new system "tricks." Elsewhere on the video, Perry compares using the computer to playing hockey with Wayne Gretzky's hockey sticks—no need to Perry O'Leary's lightning.



and one of many by-laws in the 45-minute video. The video's producers are clearly expecting to have a hit of their hands, or intensive Software of New York City shipped 50 million copies earlier this month and will release an interactive CD-ROM, featuring clips from the video, in September.

## A trashy problem for B.C. sailors

With its famous sockeye salmon off-limits to fishermen and more and more forests being closed to logging, British Columbia increasingly relies on tourism as the economic mainstay of rural communities. But in one popular region, the provincial government itself is being blamed for endangering the prime quality of B.C. scenery in the outcrops that lie between Vancouver Island and the province's mainland, the government has removed most garbage-disposal facilities. A government spokesman says they are simply not necessary. "These parks" should be treated the same as backcountry wilderness," explains Dave Gornish, district manager for more than two dozen provincial marine parks. "People should pack their garbage in and pack it out."

But marine operators say that is impractical for those who are absent for weeks at a time. With nowhere else to dispose of trash, some boatsmen resort to throwing refuse overboard. And that, says John O'Brien, owner of a marina on Texada Island, between Victoria and Nanaimo, doesn't "help anyone." Says O'Brien: "You don't want to watch whales swimming through floating plastic bags." Do his fellow provincial authorities are annoyed.

The B.C. coast: shoddy garbage disposal



## Driving a private bill through Parliament

For only the third time in 30 years, a private member's bill has managed to get a private members public bill through Parliament. Senator Colin Kenny says that the economy—and the timing—were right for the bill, which requires most federally owned vehicles to convert to alternative fuels. Under the terms of the bill, 75 per cent of the federal fleet

will switch to such fuels as natural gas, propane, ethanol or methanol by 1997. That should result in an annual reduction of 22,000 tons of carbon dioxide emissions—about 20 per cent less than the emissions from gasoline—and savings of \$1 million. Still, moving the bill along was not easy. Kenny (Liberal) approached Public Works Minister David Ogilvie, who was then shadowed as the Treasury Board, the departments of Environment, Natural Resources and Industry, and finally went to the Prime Minister's Office. Kenny says they all liked the idea, but were reluctant to take it on "I went from minister to minister, but the bill was as arduous." Eventually, however, Kenny gained enough support from colleagues in all political parties for the bill to pass the Commons 236 votes to 42 in June. Kenny now has a new target: he says the government could achieve economies of scale by drastically reducing its 106 different vehicle models. Wants Kenny: "I'm still active."

Parliament will debate this: switching fuel



Edited by BARBARA WICKSON

## BEST SELLERS

### FICTION

1. The Celestine Prophecy, James Redfield (1)
2. The Bridges of Madison County, Robert James Waller (2)
3. The Piano Man's Daughter, Timothy Findley (3)
4. Father's Field, Vincent Canby (4)
5. The Piano Man's Daughter, Timothy Findley (5)
6. The Piano Man's Daughter, Timothy Findley (6)
7. The Piano Man's Daughter, Timothy Findley (7)
8. The Piano Man's Daughter, Timothy Findley (8)
9. The Piano Man's Daughter, Timothy Findley (9)
10. The Piano Man's Daughter, Timothy Findley (10)

1/1 Prentice Hall

### NONFICTION

1. Encounters, Mark Dotson (1)
2. New Perspectives, Carl Sagan (2)
3. Being Digital, Nicholas Negroponte (3)
4. Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil, Joe Kessel (4)
5. The Piano Man's Daughter, Timothy Findley (5)
6. The Piano Man's Daughter, Timothy Findley (6)
7. The Piano Man's Daughter, Timothy Findley (7)
8. The Piano Man's Daughter, Timothy Findley (8)
9. The Piano Man's Daughter, Timothy Findley (9)
10. The Piano Man's Daughter, Timothy Findley (10)

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# PASSAGES

DIED: U.S. peace envoy Robert F. Kennedy Jr., along with two other senior U.S. diplomats in Bosnia, when their armored personnel carrier crashed while driving to Sarajevo to present a series of U.S. peace proposals to the leaders of the Bosnian government. Documenting earlier reports that the four men were victims of a land mine, state department officials said the vehicle was heading for a mine when it slipped off a road and crashed 30 m into a ravine. Kennedy and his colleagues were the first Americans killed in more than four years of war in the former Yugoslavia.



DIED: Former news anchor John Cameron Swayze, 60, at his home in Sarnia, Ont. The scarcely heard-of Swayze was one of the first recognizable personalities to front the evening news on television as a news anchor. He began reading the news in 1949 on CBC, but became even better known in the late 1960s as the patron for Times writers.

RESIGNED: Television executive Linda Rankin, from her position as president of the Winnipeg-based Women's Television Network. The eight-month-old cable network has lost the broadcast since it began operating last January. Randy Moffatt, president of Moffatt Communications, which runs the network, acknowledged that he was never told that the network was not as profitable as anticipated.

PURCHASED: By Microsoft Corp., rights to The Rolling Stones' 1965 hit Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band. The group is reportedly accepted \$10 million from Microsoft after chief executive Bill Gates approached lead singer Mick Jagger. Gates plans to use the song to help promote his new Windows 95 software program.

DIED: Screenwriter Howard Koch, 90, in Woodstock, N.Y., of pneumonia. Koch was an Oscar winner in 1943 for the screenplay of the film Casablanca. Last December, he received more than \$200,000 for his Oscar, which he accepted in help for a grand daughter's education.

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## COLUMN



# The madness of the unisex experiment

BY BARBARA AMIEL

**I** am in mid reader of a little journal called *The Women's Quarterly* that is published in Arlington, Virginia, and edited by Toranomon Donohue-Griesemer. The writing in it is usually very funny and often illuminating—hence which, I like to read the patches from the gender wars. The one good thing about political correctness is that it gives women a chance to break all the rules.

This month's edition, for example, has an article by another Canadian writer, Anne Roche Maguire, denouncing the title says that are young boys. "Young males exist in a state of nature," writes Roche, "they wild, untamed, undomesticated. Boys hate to be directed (so, by the way do their fathers) and they hate maliciously every to engage in their making experiments." In Roche's experience these have included having one of her young sons put a brother in the dryer to see if it would spin with him in it (it did) and doing various dreadful things with electrical outlets.

The point of Roche's piece was that boys are naturally different from girls, that this difference is not a bad thing (though it must be tamed) and that it is unworkable to re-educate boys to be girls. I had no idea that hostile exorcism classes had been retained. United Arts during the madness of the sixties as order to teach little boys how to cook and little girls how to use a chisel (both lady led to the high point of Roche's article which for me was the account of her son coming home as druggist at his sewing lessons. "Mom," he asked Roche, "could you help me crochet a hoodoo net?")

Our society's great attempt to fix anyone will fail and is failing, but meanwhile we have taken a lot away from both sexes. Gender roles are part of our identity and make life more exciting. There are some exceptions, no doubt, but most men and women enjoy being men and women. While gender roles have some drawbacks, they have great advantages, and only lunatics being would be so potty as to try to deny the existence of gender-specific

*While gender roles have some drawbacks, they have great advantages. Only humans would be so potty as to try to deny gender-specific behavior.*

behavior. I wish our anti-sexism police would turn their attention to cats and start a campaign for steps to behave like dogs.

This doesn't mean we shouldn't have women steelworkers or male mountaineers. I am no reason why anybody should be thwarted in their desire to be anything, provided they can pass the requirements for what they want to do. The only exceptions are probably in those "cooperative" kind occupations that provide jobs necessary for society's survival.

For example, when driving with a man in Toronto last week, I was amazed to see him nervously read the car ahead when he spotted a young female policeman on Toronto's Jarvis Street. It was not her size, blond being that made me pause, but rather the question that would have on her rule as a policeman. A policeman's function includes that of prescribing. The traditional reason for weight and height requirements has been the understanding that vehicle situations—such as a job level or a female light—are better divided by the presence of a weight, launch body position. Even a tiny Oriental woman. There is no doubt in yielding in overdriving, but there is no doubt in yielding in a red-blooded male ending his motto how

ing in the command of a data collection. Most cultures understood this. A perfect example was cited by author Mary de Villiers in *White Trunk Dressing*, in which the coefficient of surrender for one African tribe was that they should not be put to death by "women or small men of the other tribe." This is a beautiful chord. If you want to take shame and dishonor in the defeated enemy, turn them over to the women. Or let them face women such as the Women's Battalion of Death, who helped defend the east's white police. Even's noted working classes went home with fury when they encountered them. Incidentally, women can make war very effectively when the nature of the warfare changes. Policewomen ought to work very well in functions where they need not rely on a backup male in their most basic duties. Female soldiers are not born period in graceful warfare, which is based on stealth and stealth. Women perform in Greece the magnificent and highly effective work during the Second World War.

The sky of insight in political correctness is that women, thank heavens, are at the forefront of breaking all its shibboleths. The British comedienne French actress Saunders, together with Janice Pennington in the television series *Absolutely Fabulous* (as seen on CBC), couldn't care less about parading women in stereotypical roles. Of course, British comedy has always been brilliant in its political correctness. It is not that they want to make a big deal out of being politically incorrect, but when it naturally comes they do things that no one in Canada or America would dare touch. An episode of *Fawlty Towers* had John Cleese talking to an old colonial who had done service for the colonial office in India. "Women?" said the colonial. "Women, yes I have some race. Took her to the Ascot-Indians Club. Very peculiar creature. kept calling the ladies' fingers and I kept explaining to her they were called 'wags'."

Finally, the Women's Television Network was involuntarily locked under the sign of soft feminism. But it has turned out slightly differently. I turned on WTS only a night or two ago to see the stunning form of Lita Lesterson. Money editor of the *Toronto Star*, discussing Canada's feminist policy. She was sitting in a perfectly correct tree: one very comfortable black woman who efficiently banned the show, one army-band, self-will woman, female exorcism consultant and Linda—tough high black skirt, blond hair and keep-it-dell look, looking for all the world like a dominatrix and dominating the program with her right-of-centre views. She ought to be a cult figure and perhaps she is, but all I get to prove that women are members of no special interest group, come in all sizes and shapes, and all philosophies and political stances. Which is a small but significant step on the feminist path back to letting women assume their own gender roles where they can do as they like—ones where we can only leave the cradling to them while never denying the few motivated ones a crack at the chair.



# SEPARATIST KICKOFF

## The Yes forces face an uphill battle

The seining, deep in Quebec's nationalist heartland, was in close to perfection as possible. The audience, too, was well served, prepared by a travelling caravan of politicians armed with promises. And the principal players, all three of them, were in fine, fighting form. Young Mario Dumont was there, eager to polish his new credentials. Jacques Parizeau was on hand, in an appropriately anachronistic role. But the evening belonged to the other member of the province's separatist triumvirate, Lucien Bouchard. A fairly tragic figure he struggled to resist the podium—a painful reminder of his best last December

as any signs of disarray within the federalist camp while attempting to soothe Quebecers' deep fears about independence. The separatist's ultimate goal is to portray the option as not much more than a long-overdue opportunity to create a new, more equitable "partnership" with the rest of Canada.

Such campaign themes were loudly in evidence last week in the separatist arena, led by a horde of some 30 elected politicians from the Parti Québécois and the Bloc Québécois, descended into the nationalist stronghold in the Saguenay region. For two full days, Piquette cabinet ministers, PQ



Christian Johnson (right): chilly response

### A LOW PRIORITY

A poll of 1,200 adults conducted Aug. 11 to 15 by *McGraw-Hill* found that less than 10 per cent of Canadians believe that sovereignty is not a top-of-mind issue for most Quebecers. Respondents were given a list of six issues and asked to say which among them should be the Quebec government's top priority. Respondents:

- Employment/economy: **52%**
- Maintaining health services: **20%**
- The deficit: **14%**
- Quality of education: **7%**
- Sovereignty: **6%**
- Reed immigration: **1%**

MNA and BQ MPB held the area. They visited 13 separate towns in the sheltered valley north of Quebec City, housing more than 50 hutsches, diners and news centres, and featuring the radio talk-show. In the process, the politicians, freely dispensed pledges worth millions of taxpayer dollars—everything from \$300 million for a new superhighway from Alma to La Bine, to \$6 million to develop the tourism industry. The event after culminated with the Aug. 25 evening rally in Alma, where the separatist unity of Parizeau, Bouchard and Dumont appeared together on a public platform for the first time since they signed a manifesto in June, which formally linked Quebec sovereignty to no other of political and economic association with the Canada that remains.

All three leaders, confident perhaps of new public opinion polls confirming that Quebecers' continued attachment to Canada, each points to stress that the independence they are asking voters to endorse does not mean an irreversible break with the rest of the country. "Our proposal is not against Canada, it is for Quebec," said Dumont, the leader and only sitting member of the Parti Québécois. BQ Leader Bouchard, standing by, quickly agreed. "Sovereignty is a project that is serious and open, for Canada will always be our neighbor," he said. Even the separatist's fiercest foe, BQ premier Jean Charest, was on hand, expressing that he was in favor of "extending a hand to our neighbor." Parizeau told the assembled throng: "We cannot turn our backs on Canada. We cannot turn our backs on the ties we have created, the friendships we have achieved, the projects that we will undertake together."

On the subject of their federalist adversaries, however, the separatist trio was less forthcoming. Offering a glimpse of the tactics that he chose, not to mention the strategy, all three leaders jumped at the chance to exploit the apparent split in federalist ranks that erupted last week after Quebec Liberal Leader Daniel Johnson, lending to pressure from his party's youth wing, reserved the prospect of a renewed round of constitutional bargaining. Such a proposal in southern to Prime Minister Jean Charest—was not received with any enthusiasm by Charest and his English-speaking counterparts. "We have no intention of negotiating with the separatists," Charest said. "We have no intention of negotiating with the separatists." Johnson's speech in Alma, the separatist leaders leaped upon as the



Parizeau (left), Bouchard and Dumont at sovereignty rally in Alma, Que., setting the tone for the coming struggle

Quebec Liberal leader. "We know Johnson won't have to wait," said Bouchard, his nose dripping with disdain. "He got his marching orders today from his masters in Ottawa. They all said to him, 'It's not you who speaks for the No side. You're not allowed to have ideas and initiatives for Quebec. Yes, Daniel Johnson, should be down and shut up.'"

Stung by the personal nature of the attack, and deeply embarrassed by Ottawa's chilly response to any mention of new constitutional talks, Johnson struck back. He converted a news conference to leap on Bouchard's claim, delivered in Alma, that Quebecers face the choice of either giving up their identity by adopting Canadian federalism or preserving it by getting out of the union altogether. "What is it that permits Lucien Bouchard, on high from I don't know what point, to grant a Quebec identity to one person over another?" Johnson loudly demanded. "Did Lucien Bouchard to come and tell me and prove to my face, to me, a Quebecer, that I will no longer be a Quebecer? I'll tell you."

The exchange may be a harbinger of what the separatist future holds for Quebecers—and for other constitutionally litigious Canadians. Last week's foray by the separatists in the Saguenay is the clearest signal yet that Parizeau has already decided on the debate, perhaps even the campaign, that will soon be played before the province's voters. The most likely timing is on or around Oct.

30, setting the stage for the Quebec National Assembly to reconvene in early September to officially launch the adventure.

In the meantime, the travelling separatist caravan that appeared in Alma last week is scheduled to repeat the same performance in virtually all of the outlying regions of Quebec, working up its effort on Aug. 25. The reception, however, may not be as warm elsewhere. For it was no accident that the separatists chose the Saguenay to face the opening salvo in the battle. There Lévesque did the same for the 1980 independence referendum. The inhabitants of the valley responded by voting 65 per cent of their ballots in favor of Lévesque's sovereignty-association proposition, the only region in Quebec to return a majority Yes vote. That may well happen again. But the separatists were not merely preaching to the converted last week. Parizeau and his troops require as massive a Yes vote as possible in the Saguenay, as well as other areas of the hinterland, to counter the equally massive No vote that appears to be building up and around Montreal and most other urban areas, with the notable exception of Quebec City.

In fact, public opinion polls released last week showed that the separatists continue to face an uphill battle. A previously confidential survey conducted last in March by the respected Montreal firm Centre de recherches

sur l'opinion publique (CROP) for the federal government's only option—and obtained last week by *The Globe and Mail*—suggested that 65 per cent of Quebecers believe the province should remain part of Canada while 30 per cent are opposed. Even more daunting for separatists' hopes was a survey carried out between Aug. 11 and Aug. 15 by 5000 for the Montreal, Saguenay and Quebec City's Le Soleil. Factoring in the undecided vote, the poll suggested a 60-40 split against independence, virtually the same as the results obtained a year ago and almost exactly a mirror of the 1980 referendum outcome. In the 5000 survey, even if respondents were divided evenly on the question of separation, among anglophones and francophones—Quebecers whose first language is neither French nor English—the response was an overwhelming 59-40 against independence.

Both the CROP and 5000 figures run counter to the claims separatists were making last week as they latched all their referendum campaign. PQ leaders said that external party polls suggested support for their proposition was rising at slightly more than 50 per cent in favor—which presumably explains why there were so many confident smiles on separatist faces if the new polls are correct. It may be difficult to keep those smiles from fading.

BARRY GARDIN in Alma



## Feuding over a fair

Calgary and Ottawa-Hull battle for Expo 2005

Like a parent trying to decide which child to name, the federal government will not choose one over the other for Canada's bid to the Paris-based Bureau international des expositions (BIE) for the right to host Expo 2005. And whichever it chooses—Calgary or Ottawa-Hull—necessarily there will be hurt feelings and, quite possibly, a lightening of test-rest tensions. Not surprisingly, a choice that will be made by March of this year is raised in limbo last week, Ottawa was still awaiting a response from Ottawa's recently elected Conservative government about whether it was willing to cover any deficit that might arise out of an Ottawa-Hull bid—and to allow the federal government to assume full financial responsibility for an Expo 2005. Prime Minister Michael Duggan had set a deadline—July 14—for providing such a guarantee. But Prime Minister Jean Charest recently extended that indefinitely.

While the federal government fiddles, any Calgarians, their city is being burned. Supporters of the Calgary bid claim that they have already won the race far and square. As early as February, the Alberta government gave assurances that Ottawa would not be responsible for any shortfall resulting from a successful Calgary bid. And it was on the basis of that pledge that an independent panel—set up by Duggan to review the competing bids—recommended last March that the federal government pick Calgary. Any further delay, Calgary supporters now say, will make it harder for the winning city to compete internationally. "Excuse me, this isn't a Calgary-Ottawa competition," said Calgary Mayor Al Duerr in an interview last week. "I just explain the government to make a decision so we don't lose valuable time in the international arena."

Federal officials insisted last week that they are being careful, not slow, and that there is still plenty of time to name a winner. Certainly, supporters at the Ottawa-Hull bid do not appear to feel Calgary's sense of urgency. They need time, in fact, to persuade Ottawa to provide the federal government with financial assurances similar to those given by Alberta. Ottawa Premier Mike Rafter's spokesman, Paul Rhodes, said last week that the matter is "being examined by the very highest levels of government." But he quickly added that he could not specify when a decision would be made.

While the matter remains in limbo this summer, both camps continue to advance their cause. Ottawa-Hull supporters argue that their Expo would be bigger and better

### Holmesman stressed west-east relations

and, partly because more people live in the immediate vicinity, would attract more visitors—projected at 60 million in comparison to the 12 million visitors expected in Calgary. Supporters of Calgary's bid claim that their proposal, though more modest, is also more financially secure. Ottawa-Hull has a claim on federal supporters—a successful Expo bid and the subsequent activity it generates would be a long way toward compensating for the loss of 50,000 jobs in the area and the loss of 100,000 jobs in the area as a city of long memories—counties with a growing presence of its own. "We had significantly greater job losses as a result of the National Energy Program and deindustrialization of the world economy in 1982," said Mayor Thorne last week. "There was just devastation—and no one came to our aid. But we're stronger for it."

The strained relations are partly the result of disagreement over the mandate of the federal panel appointed by Duggan. The Calgary opposition's chairman, Jack Bennett, says that "it was our understanding when we went into this process that the panel would render a recommendation and that, at all things being equal, the government would go with it." But Ottawa Mayor Jacques Holmes—unofficially less impressed with the panel's recommendations—argues instead that the panel's report was always supposed to be "a gut-level factor in the decision-making process."

The panel, as any event, recommended that the government choose Calgary principally because it was the only one of the two proposals to meet the essential requirements: an assurance that the federal government will not be held for any financial losses arising from Expo. The committee also examined other elements of the competing bids, citing for example, that Calgary had superior infrastructure, with light-rail transit already serving its proposed site at the Stampede grounds. On the other hand, the panel said

that Ottawa-Hull planned a larger exhibition on a more attractive site. And, significantly, it found that, but the capital's bid "passed muster financially, it would have been more likely than that of Calgary to win against international competition." Ottawa boosters such as Al MacLennan, head of the Ottawa-Hull bid committee, seized on that assessment. MacLennan has even suggested that a decision favouring the national capital bid will make Canada to make a successful pitch for Expo 2005 and "to maintain its position as an important global power."

While Ottawa supporters were searching for openings in the panel's report, the Calgary bid was shaken this spring by controversy over the firmness of Alberta's financial assurances. Then, in a letter to Duggan in April, Duerr and Alberta Premier



Duerr concerned about a delay

Ralph Klein reaffirmed their position that the province and the city of Calgary would assume "a proportionate share of responsibility and risk," and that no contribution would be required from the federal government. But Klein did not use the word "guarantee." Calgary boosters later argued that Alberta's assurances were firm enough, stipulating that any of alleged a careless government promise of a blank cheque.

But ultimately in late June, Duggan decided that both contenders should clarify exactly what promises they could provide. The demand guaranteed allegations from Calgary of political interference, insisting that Calgary had long ago secured Ottawa that it would not incur any costs. Duerr's office issued a terse press release calling Duggan's last request an "outrage" that potentially signals "in other cases of the federal government's role in the West of what it has traditionally been." Ottawa Mayor Holmes last week countered that the Duggan letter, and Charest's decision to extend that deadline, to give the new Ontario government more time to examine its options, simply says the Ottawa-Hull bid on a level playing field. "And once it becomes a level field on that basis," he said, "Ottawa-Hull is a superior." The battle continues.

MARY McNEIL on Calgary with ALICE JOHNSON in Ottawa

## Running on empty

A side from politicians, pundits, political scientists and other critics, the people who see perhaps most excited about Quebec's sovereignty debate are those who work for advertising agencies. "Give me the selling of a new service, a new product," says Hugh MacLennan, who in this magazine in 1992, "and I care not who governs its politics." Quite right, 35 years later, it remains true that when the going gets tough in politics, the tough get an advertising agency to devise slogans.

Although the referendum is still no more than a distant, uncertain gleam on the horizon, the non-stop deluge of pamphlets is already evident. In the first allegedly serious pre-referendum rally in Quebec last week, Jacques Parizeau, Ontario Premier and Lucien Bouchard presented the all-purpose sales pitches each will use. Parizeau, who used to describe himself as a separatist and scorned the notion of any association with Canada, now calls federalism and economic ties detestable because the polls tell him he should. His potential slogan "Sovereignty Libre—more tasteless, less fitting than the slogan."

The two contenders, provincially salient Duerr, meanwhile, is a former Liberal and Robert Bourassa agency who reminds his own members' religious police for dispassionate ambiguity. When he pronounces the word "ambiguity" which he does as seldom as possible—he usually says self-declared, and his face scrunches as though he would like to hide the word under a mess and a handkerchief. He prefers to talk instead exclusively about voting. Yes as means to "a new partnership" with the rest of Canada. That makes him the perfect bid for Liberal Premier Duerr. Duerr, who describes a No vote as a privilege to most constitutionalists. In short, Duerr says that a Yes means No to the status quo, and a No to new ties with Canada. Johnson says a Yes will do the same. Ready to vote now? Not to say that the words of the man in the white shirt, the question-provoking Quebecers independence and fear with Canada at the same time—won't be And



### BACKSTAGE OTTAWA

BY ANTHONY WILSON-SMITH

because Johnson and Duerr agree on everything but which way to vote, they dislike each other all the more.

Then there is Bourdieu, whose speech demonstrated that

he now grasps the essence of the elusive sense of English-Canadian identity, a deep-seated yearning and pride in Quebec. A No vote, he said, would mean "Ottawa will have a big party and English Canada will be rubbing its hands." This, from a man who has been perpetually clutching about his reputation English Canadians long enough that he should know they would prefer the gut-churning ache of a hangover to the unrelieved flat of a party.

That choice won't be available to Quebecers—most of whom, polls suggest, regard the referendum with the same sick lack of enthusiasm evoked by a post-holiday morning.

But in a poll released last week by B&B Inc., and published by the Montreal Gazette and Le Soleil of Quebec City, respondents were given six topics and asked to rank them in order of importance. The provincial government's poll priority only six per cent said sovereignty. The only good news for sovereignty seekers is the overall indifference of the average.

Polls suggest most Quebecers welcome the debate about as much as a hangover

because to embrace themselves is that sovereignty did not replace last maintenance as a priority by a full five percentage points. Better for their morale not to ask the same question is spring, when people are still in bloom.

But no slogan can hide the fact that, after more than three decades of bickering about Quebec's constitutional place in or outside of Canada, there is nothing new to be said. If the No vote has not yet embarrassed itself as often as the Yes forces, that is because it has embraced the old slogan first. It is better to remain silent and be presumed a fool rather than speak up and remove all doubt. It is all reinforcement of another old saw that cynics recited in Cold War days: the difference between a problem and a solution is that capitalism is the exploitation of the rich by the poor, while the reverse is the reverse. Many Quebecers, it seems, now look at federalism and sovereignty the same way.

## A TALE OF TWO BIDS

The two Canadian cities for Expo 2005 are both medium-sized cities that regularly rate high on national quality-of-life surveys. But in making their case for the right to represent Canada, each expects some distinct advantages—and faces some obvious obstacles.

### CALGARY

POPULATION 814,500

**THE PITCH**

This city has the requisite experience—it hosted the highly successful 1988 Winter Olympics.

• A bold new focus on the tourist-attracted Rockies.

• The Alberta government assures that federal financial levels will not be responsible for financial shortfalls.

**STRENGTHS**

Little political clout—none of the city's six MPs are Liberals.

**WEAKNESSES**

• When a day's drive from Toronto, Montreal and several U.S. cities.

• Lack of political clout—of all Canada's 11 MPs are Liberals.

• Internal dissension—the city's bid faces opposition from some regional councillors and citizens.

### OTTAWA-HULL

POPULATION 1,010,300

**THE PITCH**

The national capital region might not do it Duggan and Brian—well-armed most participants and visitors.

• When a day's drive from Toronto, Montreal and several U.S. cities.

• Lack of political clout—of all Canada's 11 MPs are Liberals.

• Internal dissension—the city's bid faces opposition from some regional councillors and citizens.

**STRENGTHS**

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# 'Thelma and Louise'

Police step up their search for two fugitive women

They may wanted sex, but they clearly did not expect it to be quite so expensive. Last January, Rose Turford, 36, formerly of London, Ont., and Joyce Stevens, 31, of Houston, began using a telephone answering service to arrange encounters with expensive men in the Texas city. But according to police, when Turford and Stevens actually met their victim face-to-face, the two women flashed

Hotel and Unibond Alphas, were taping arguments on the spot. As well, businessman Romeo was preparing to ship to Toronto 200 T-shirts bearing pictures of Turford and Stevens and offering a \$25,000 reward for their capture.

There was nothing to suggest that Turford and Stevens would embark on a crime spree in the first place. Turford, a registered nurse, moved to Houston from London in

claiming that Avery had punished her for not following his commands on one of their secret missions.

Turford gradually grew closer to Stevens in the spring of 1985, she once persuaded her husband to allow Stevens to move into their home. Stevens, in turn, allegedly convinced Turford that, unless she went along with Avery's plans, which included robbery, he would kidnap Turford's children. "I don't say that the pair then began using the telephone dating service, and that when they arrived at their various homes, they claimed to be police officers investigating a woman's disappearance. They would haul out the two old video tapes at moments like this, and make the pair pretend about \$300,000 worth of cash, cars and credit cards.

After Turford and Stevens failed to show up for a court appearance in May, investigators found a three-page letter, purportedly written by Avery, inside Turford's pillow. It read, in part, "I have come to repossess my girls." But police say they doubt that Avery exists.

New officers down someone get exhausted while they are out on bond on a robbery case?" asked Det. Jan Halloran of the Harris County sheriff's office. South, he has put, says there may be an affair reason why Turford went along with Stevens's fantasies. "She was bored," said Smith. "Stevens offered excitement."

But Turford's brother in law, Ernie Durocher, 36, told Montreal that he is convinced that the explanation Avery really does have control over the two women. "Why else, he said, would his sister—when he described as a loving mother married to a man making \$125,000 a year—suddenly leave home for a life of crime?" "The just doesn't make sense," he added. "She is a good person—she wouldn't even steal a piece of candy."

Still, unless the two women's heard voice, none of Turford's relatives, who just up their homes and businesses are collected for the bad money, could lose almost everything they own. In fact, Romeo has already foreclosed on an undercapitalized lot owned by Durocher's parents in Houston. And the bad businessmen are now considering court action to take possession of a home and restaurant operated by Turford's in-laws in Mitchell, Ont., just north of London. Durocher, however, says that rather than pursuing Turford and Stevens, police should be doing everything in their power to catch the shadowy accomplice. "Once Avery is out of the way," he adds, "they will be safe." As of last week at least, "Thelma and Louise" were still on the run.

TOM PENVELL



Romeo with Turford: 'At some point, reality has to set in'

1980 with her husband, Brian, an executive at a computer company. Initially she found work in a private psychiatric hospital in the city, and their three boys, aged 4, 12 and 14, seemed happy in their new home in the city's upscale Harris County suburb. Stevens, the daughter of a Methodist minister, also worked at the hospital as a technician. According to private investigator Nancy Smith, who works for Romeo in Houston, Stevens managed to convince Turford that she was being courted by a mysterious man called Avery South, who alternated Turford and Stevens while they were in custody, also says that Stevens would show up at work with cuts and bruises,

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Turford and Stevens, neither of whom has a criminal record, could soon find it even more difficult to hide. Last week, two U.S. satellite television programs, America's Most

I was on the golf course, waiting for the foursome behind us to play through. Well, we're talking about real estate prices, when all of a sudden

## A TITANIUM NINE IRON COMES PLUMMETING OUT OF THE SKY.

Turned out a guy on the next fairway had lost the grip on his club, and I ducked out of the way just in time. But it got me thinking, hey what if I get hurt down here?



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## ASSIGNING THE BLAME

Five years after the event, a provincial coroner's report into the 1980 Oka crisis placed most of the blame on the provincial police for the isolated mid that led to the 28-day standoff between Mohawk Warriors and authorities. The report also said that the single bullet that killed police Cpl. Marcel Lemay on July 17, 1986, came from Mohawk positions in the Pine Forest at Oka, just west of Montreal—although the identity of the killer remains a mystery.

## CLASHING OVER SALMON

One week after closing all sockeye salmon fishing on British Columbia's Fraser River, federal fisheries experts reversed opinion: the number of salmon returned to return this year from the Pacific to their spawning grounds. The new estimates are for 4.5 million salmon—up from a 3.8-million estimate earlier this month, but well below the previous forecast of 12.7 million. As a result, both river and commercial fishers were granted one-day openings to catch salmon. On Aug. 16, commercial fishers attempted to interfere with native rights to protest the fact that they were given first crack at the limited salmon run.

## DEBATING MEDICARE

At a meeting in Winnipeg, delegates representing Canada's 47,000 doctors voted 66 to 66 against a resolution that essentially advocated the creation of a private medical insurance system competing with medicare. The delegates also passed a resolution calling for a broad public debate on the subject.

## FATAL FLAWS?

Toronto transit cops discovered a defective trip arm in a section of subway tunnel where two trains collided on Aug. 11, killing three women and injuring at least 38 other people. The city now wants to trigger the emergency brakes of a subway train passing any red signal and approaching another subway. But critics' investigations cautioned that it was too early to say what role, if any, the device played in the accident.

## INCEST RULING

New Scotia Supreme Court Justice Hiram Carver rejected a family's claim that its adult members have the constitutional right to have sex with one another, "provided it is a crime," said Carver. "And a crime it would be." The family members, who cannot be identified because of a publication ban, will be sentenced on Oct. 11. The case comes a maximum penalty of 14 years.

# Canada NOTES



## INNOCENT VICTIM:

About 800 mourners gathered in a Montreal church for the funeral service of 11-year-old Daniel Desrochers, who was fatally injured in an Aug. 9 blast linked to a turf war between motorcycle gangs. Daniel was playing in the street when a bomb in a drug dealer's vehicle blew up, sending a steel fragment into his brain. He died four days later.

## Probing Pearson

A respected seafarer told a Senate inquiry that the Liberal government did not consider public the initial investigation done as a review of a 1983 proposal to privatize Toronto's Pearson airport. The review led to the scuttling of the \$700-million deal reached between the former Conservative government and a firm headed by a major Tory fundraiser, Paul Strelitz, president of Toronto-based DeKorte & Touche Inc., told the inquiry that he has seen two versions of a report prepared by Robert Noon, who reviewed the Pearson deal for Prime Minister Joe Clark. The existence of another version of Noon's report has been denied repeatedly by Noon and senior Liberal officials. Conservatives have used the existence of two reports to back their allegations that the Liberals manipulated Noon's review.

Strelitz told the inquiry that he saw Noon's public report in December, 1983, and a second report that looked almost identical

six months ago. He said there were some differences, but would not discuss details—even under oath. "I know me as a pilot, I'm not going to talk about it," he said.

## Chilling words

A Canadian teenager who was charged on July 31 in connection with a triple murder in a Seattle suburb told a witness RCMP officer that killing was not as stressful as he had expected. The recently recorded conversation was presented at a B.C. Supreme Court bail hearing in Vancouver for Sebastian Burns, 19, who faces extradition along with Aidan Raley, also 19, in the brutal slayings of Raley's parents and sister at the family home in Bellevue, Wash. Referring to the killings, Burns said: "I don't know. We thought it would be more nerve-racking." At a subsequent hearing, Burns said that "in no way would I have any dilemma" if he was asked to participate in another killing. Police said that the two accused wanted to gain control of the family home and an insurance policy, worth a total of \$475,000.



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# Horror in Kashmir

Rebels in India behead a Norwegian tourist

It was a pleasant woman collecting firewood in the Himalayan mountains who stumbled upon the headless corpse. Kashmiri Islamic militants had carried their grisly message into the chest of Norwegian tourist Hans Christian Ostro and tossed his naked body about 20 meters from his designated spot. Ostro, 27, was the first murder victim since five Western climbers who were kidnapped in early July by a primarily religious guerrilla called *Nizam*. "In all cases, if you do not fulfill our demands, the others will suffer the same fate," said a note found on the ground nearby.

The beheading shocked Indian officials who had been in almost daily contact with the hostage takers, and it sent a chill through Muslim capitals concerned about the remaining four—Americans, a German and two Britons. It also incited riotous local Kashmiris, whose 32-group separatist alliance reacted to distance itself from the grotesque deed. Alliance leaders finally admitted they forlornly Western support for their seaway struggle against Indian rule at the very moment when they are attacking international attention. "No threat or sympathy of the freedom movement in Kashmir could take part in such a barbarous act," said Abdul Ghani Lone, a leader of the *All-Party Hurriyat Conference*. Strains throughout the Indian state of Jammu and Kashmir were angry for a day after Hurriyat claimed a mass protest against *All-Party's* extremists. Otherwise, said Lone, "Our freedom struggle will be tarnished as a terror movement."

New Delhi has already indicated to even as the bid suggests demand that it release 15 million prisoners—an approach backed by politicians in London, Bonn and Washington, who favor diplomacy over a counterinsurgency raid in the mountains. But all are in the dark as to whether and how to proceed. India and its successive deadlines passed off with the remaining hostages still apparently safe, three CIA military experts flew to Srinagar, summer capital of Kashmir, to help India elicit Black Cat security force prevent more Western deaths. The confusion has already claimed the lives of as many as 20,000 locals since it erupted in 1989. The conflict has been persisting since India and Pakistan first went to war over Kashmir in 1947, leaving a Muslim

minority on the Indian side of the border in a partitioned state. Among the 130 rebel groups operating from the Kashmir Valley, some favor complete independence, while others want to join fellow Muslims in Pakistan. Kashmir rebels have admitted they receive funding and training from Pakistan. But they still number only 30,000 in 20,000—challenging an Indian military presence at



Ostro (center) and fellow hostages succeeded by rebels in a mountain trek ends in tragedy

400,000. Last month's international human rights groups have lost their way. part to the Kashmir struggle for independence and widespread allegations of Indian army brutality that has killed thousands of civilians. But since 1989, the conflict has spilled beyond Kashmir's narrow borders from Pakistan, Afghanistan and other countries, who see Kashmir as the latest frontier in an international Islamic jihad, or holy war. The hostage drama is the latest sign that or-

derly Kashmiris have lost control of their struggle for self-determination.

India was quick to blame Pakistan for last week's beheading, accusing its neighbors of inciting *Harkat-ul-Jamaat*, the group India believes is behind the shadowy *All-Party* kidnappers. "If Pakistan realizes there and gives the necessary directions, [the hostages] will be released," said S.V. Krishna Rao, governor of India's Jammu and Kashmir state. But Hardee, in turn, denied involvement, charging Indian intelligence planted the rubble in order to discredit the Kashmiri independence movement. India's counterterrorism tactics may well include frustrated rebel infiltration. Its long-handed military response to the successful guerrillas has so far killed 12,000 to 16,000, 14 civilian civilians of ammunition, 4,500 revolutionaries and 274 rebel launchers in five years. But few outside observers have gone

## ISRAELI CONTROVERSY

Israeli soldiers killed hundreds of Egyptian prisoners of war in the 1967 Middle East war; several Israeli historians said. The allegations followed a retired army general's admission that he killed dozens of POWs in the 1966 Middle East war. Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, who was chief of staff in the 1967 conflict, denounced the killings and said they were isolated incidents.

## INDEPENDENCE REJECTED

Bernadine's premier promise to resign after his victory in the British colony voted against independence. Sir John Bann, who had led the drive for sovereignty, said he would step down once his United Bermuda Party—which was split on the independence issue—shows a success. The referendum result was 16,289 votes against independence and 17,414 in favor. The islands are one of the last dependent territories in what remains of the British Empire.

## IRAQ DENIES BUILDUP

Iraqi tensions rose in the Middle East after U.S. officials accused Iraq of an arsenal buildup. Iraqis denied the charges. Washington countered U.S. forces in the Persian Gulf region and pledged to support Jordan if it threatened for agreeing to take in several top-level Iraqi defectors—including two sons-in-law of Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein. An allied Iraqi opposition group said that because of Iraq's military forces have been avoided since the Aug. 6 defections.

## CHINA EXPELS PROTESTERS

Six Greenpeace activists, including a Canadian, were detained by the Chinese government for 32 hours and then expelled, after unfurling a banner in Tiananmen Square calling for a halt to nuclear testing. The protesters had entered the country as tourists. China conducted an underground test earlier this month, sparking criticism from around the world and a threat from Japan to cut off aid.

## FEMALE CADET HOUNDED OUT

Male cadets shunned and hounded a female cadet in celebration after a 20-year-old woman announced that she was leaving a military academy in Charleston, S.C., after only one week. Shannon Robinson had spent two years fighting to become the first female cadet in the school's 150-year history. Robinson said she was leaving because of the stress she has suffered during her campaign. Among other things, her family home has been vandalized and she has received death threats.

# World NOTES

## Mountain climbers killed

A 33-year-old Australian climber from Sydney, Jeff Lakes, died with as many as others during an ascent of the world's second-highest mountain, a Himalayan peak called K2. Lakes's expedition, led by the son of Mount Everest pioneer Sir Edmund Hillary, reportedly began its climb on Aug. 9. According to members of Lakes's family in Western Canada, the climber ran into trouble when he tried to rescue several other climbers who were buried by an avalanche near the top of the peak. When Lakes reached there, it seems, they were dead. Lakes then began descending the mountain but was himself buried by an avalanche. The dead and wounded were recovered after digging himself out of the snow and climbing down to one of their camps along the mountain's face.

Friends had family were informed of the tragedy by a survivor with a satellite phone.



Lakes: a life-long ambition

"Jeff wanted K2 even more than he wanted Everest," said Paul Allen, a friend of the climber from Trout, B.C. "He was like a kid in a candy store." "Name Saker, an organizer of the expedition who received reports from the team last week in the northern Pakistan town of Skardu, said that fellow climbers had found Lakes's body and buried it on the mountain. At 8,611 meters, K2 is slightly higher than Mount Everest but considered the most dangerous and accessible of all the Himalayan peaks. The Pakistan army says that poor weather made rescue flights to the area impossible last week. Storms were not expected to reach Skardu, the town nearest to the mountain, until early this month. According to Saker, the other climbers reported dead included an American, a New Zealander and three Spaniards, as well as Britain's Alison Hargreaves, one of the world's top female climbers.



## Japan's apology

Japanese Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama apologized for Japan's role in the Second World War in a speech marking the 50th anniversary of the country's surrender in that conflict. It was the first time that a Japanese prime minister had offered an unqualified apology to the victims of Japanese aggression. Murayama said that Japan had "caused tremendous damage and suffering to the people of many countries, particularly to those of Asian nations" through its colonial rule and invasions.

While Australian officials greeted the remarks with enthusiasm, other countries in the region were more subdued. China, which was invaded and partially occupied by the Japanese army toward a settlement, welcoming the apology that the new leader said "many people in Japanese society, including political circles, are still unable to accept a correct attitude towards the history of that period." At a necessary

the same day, Chinese President Jiang Zemin warned that "any speech or act intended to cover up the crimes of the fascists will seriously hurt the feelings of the Chinese people and those of other countries."

## Colombia's drug war

Colombia's prosecutor general, Alfonso Valderrama, publicly called for the repeal of his country's ban on the exportation of drug traffickers. The government estimated he has in 1995 under pressure from traffickers. "The constitutional prohibition of extradition was a mistake," Valderrama said reporters. Valderrama's comments came after a crackdown that has crippled the country's largest drug cartel, based in Cali. Several traffickers seized by Canadian police are currently taking refuge in Colombia. Among them is Bernardo Arellano, who police and prosecutors say is the largest cocaine importer in Canadian history. Arellano fled Canada in 1989 and now owns several ranches south of Medellin.

NOMI MOKKES with JULIANNE GOLDENBERG in Beijing





# A BUYING SPREE

There is a real estate boom this summer in Montreal, and Patrick Durbin of the Royal Bank of Canada is partly responsible. But the banker is not handing out mortgages. Instead, he is the manager of a new telephone service centre that will have 700 people over the next four or five years. Durbin has already put 16 people on the payroll since May, and the Royal Bank is just one of 23 telephone service businesses that have created about 3,900 telecommunications jobs in New Brunswick since 1993. These jobs have given the local housing market a dramatic boost: the average price of a two-storey, three-bedroom house in Moncton is now \$90,000, compared with \$78,000 a year ago. The 23-percent increase in house prices in Moncton makes one of the biggest jumps in Canada over the past year; house prices have remained stable or have fallen in most of the country that the same combination of job growth, relatively low mortgage rates and a single supply of real estate that has spurred Montreal's market is now expected to boost house prices in many other regions.

After a protracted slump, sales of new and existing houses are on the rise. House sales nationally were up 7.4 per cent in July over the previous year, according to a report released last week by the Canadian Real Estate Association. It was the first time this year that sales have risen over 1994 levels, and the trend is expected to continue. In a recent study, the Royal Bank found that in the second quarter of 1995, houses were more affordable than at any time in the past 10 years. Based on the recent downward trend of mortgage rates, even new Canadians will be able to own homes heading into 1996. The only exceptions to the trend are in British Columbia, where prices in Victoria and Vancouver are already sky high and are prompting the flight to more affordable communities

It is the creation of new jobs that has jumped up Montreal's house price, and a report by Toronto-based CIBC Research Associates Ltd. indicates that other major cities, particularly Toronto and Calgary, could soon experience the same phenomenon. Toronto lost 9,000 jobs last year, but CIBC senior vice-president Patricia Anselmi predicts that the city will gain 65,000 jobs in 1995 and 65,800 in 1996, with most of the growth in the service sector. "The full impact of this job growth has not yet been realized," Anselmi says. "Tighter rental markets are also starting to make home ownership more attractive." Across other major centres, Calgary is expected to stabilize its momentum, with the workforce growing, according to Anselmi's estimates, by 15,000 this year and 8,000 in 1996. That compares with 8,000 new jobs created last year. Vancouver's employment growth is expected to cool slightly, with a forecast of 21,000 new jobs in 1995 and 14,000 jobs next year. In 1994, the city grew

34,000 new jobs, which triggered a vigorous round of real estate sales. But the employment picture is not so rosy across the country. Ottawa's real estate market has been hit hard by the pending layoffs of more than 15,000 federal civil servants in the region. As a result, the average price of a four-bedroom house in south Ottawa is down to \$226,000 from \$225,000 last July. David Leland, a Toronto-based vice-president with Royal LePage Real Estate Services Ltd., says, "Ottawa's real estate market has stalled, but we have seen the worst. High tech companies are giving the area a lift, and once the government cuts are done, people will get on with their lives and come back into the market."

Meanwhile, in Quebec, a buoyant real estate market is widely anticipated to run spread on the upcoming referendum. House prices in Montreal, which have been stable in most neighbourhoods, were

## Luxury homes in Vancouver: an overvalued market chills

up 18 per cent over the past year in the exclusive Westmoorland area, a four-bedroom, two-storey house is listed for sale at just \$475,000. Real estate agents say Westmoorland remains the most sought-after of choice for Quebec's business elite, and has the same cachet with any executives moving to the city. But Royal LePage's Landry, who lived in Montreal for 18 years, says that in recent weeks the market has entered a slump that will probably last through this fall's expected boom on Quebec's sovereignty.

SBC Industry experts say that buyers looking for homes in Canada will find plenty of choices on the market. Michel Laurence, an Ottawa-based economist with Canada Mortgage and Housing Corp., says, if no new homes were built, and no existing homes were put up for sale, it would still take 10 months for the supply of houses now for sale or on the market to be bought up, based on the average demand for housing. Montreal is the most overvalued market—there is enough supply available to meet the needs of buyers for the next 23 months, says Laurence. "We are at the back end of the supply side of the equation. While we are seeing sales of existing homes recover, new housing has not responded to improved mortgage rates and lower prices."

But fewer new homes are being built in Canada, and Laurence predicts that the drop in supply will gradually balance the market. The CMHC recorded 167,700 housing starts in July, down 15 per cent from the previous month and the lowest level of new home building since September 1989, the depths of a recession. For one thing, buyers are being drawn to the real estate market by declining mortgage rates. In the past six months, lenders have dropped the average conventional five-year mortgage rates to 8.25 per cent from 11 per cent,

which is frequently less than the cost of renting in most cities, according to a study by Royal LePage. In the Westmoorland suburb of Maple, the area's three-bedroom, two-storey house costs \$80,000, a price that is almost unchanged over last year. A buyer with a 25-per-cent down payment would make monthly mortgage payments of \$225 on a 30-year mortgage for a house in Maple, although he would also have to contend with property tax, leaving a similar property would cost \$800 a month. A dramatic incentive to that rule is the high-flying Vancouver market. A house in the bedroom community of North Delta, B.C., would cost \$215,000, and mortgage payments would be \$280 a month, compared with a rental cost of \$1,190.

Both high prices, however, are beginning to strangle the residential real estate markets in Vancouver, where the average price of a house is \$314,000 and Victoria, the second most expensive city in British Columbia with an average house price of \$220,000. Sales down by 40 per cent in Vancouver in the first seven months of this year, and by 36 per cent in Victoria. At the same time, the number of houses listed for sale jumped in both cities. Larry Ferrier, a Vancouver-based Royal LePage vice-president, says, "Vancouver and Victoria markets are now flat, and we have seen a decrease in overseas interest. Any buying that was going to come from Hong Kong is now complete."

But the robust economic strength of Vancouver throughout the recession has made it one Canada's proudest achievement. The most expensive houses in the country are in Vancouver's neighbourhoods, where a standard four-bedroom house averages \$675,000, up \$20,000 in the past year, and a five-bedroom, three-bath house with a 4-bay or stann and two-car garage is going for \$860,000, up from \$840,000 last summer. Such prices are sustainable for most working Canadians. The Royal Bank housing study found that the average pre-tax household income for Vancouverites is \$41,000, and 30 per cent of that paycheck is required to pay the mortgage, utilities and property taxes. In Alberta and the Atlantic provinces, the most affordable regions, just 30 per cent of income is needed to make up for the demands of home ownership.

While the Vancouver and Victoria housing markets are expected to climb, the recent increase in real estate prices is pushing demand for property in smaller towns. Ferrier says that many sellers—including young people in search of better lifestyles, and elderly homeowners—are leaving Vancouver and Victoria and moving to the interior of the province or to towns in Vancouver Island. In the process, they are pocketing healthy capital gains. Some communities are already feeling the impact of that shift, with the price of a four-bedroom house in Prince George, B.C., up 24 per cent as in the last year to \$287,000. But prices have remained stable in other popular alternatives to British Columbia's big cities—some such as Penticton and Nanaimo. There, average house prices are \$173,000 and \$190,000, respectively. Ferrier says, "You reach a point where people want to take the equity out of their house. That option is more attractive when the 21 C. summer is so affordable." Whether they are taking up or just starting out, low buyers can rest the bite of lower prices.

As a result, the cost of paying a mortgage

## DREAM HOMES

From St. John's, Nfld., to Victoria, there are still dreams in what Canadians are willing to pay for a four-bedroom detached home with 2½ baths, room, family room, fireplace and full basement.



## Exclusive Westmoorland area in Montreal: sustainable prices

provinces or to towns in Vancouver Island. In the process, they are pocketing healthy capital gains. Some communities are already feeling the impact of that shift, with the price of a four-bedroom house in Prince George, B.C., up 24 per cent as in the last year to \$287,000. But prices have remained stable in other popular alternatives to British Columbia's big cities—some such as Penticton and Nanaimo. There, average house prices are \$173,000 and \$190,000, respectively. Ferrier says, "You reach a point where people want to take the equity out of their house. That option is more attractive when the 21 C. summer is so affordable." Whether they are taking up or just starting out, low buyers can rest the bite of lower prices.

# Under pressure

Competition heats up in the mutual fund sector

Thom Selby of Toronto shares a problem with a growing number of Canadians: where to invest his hard-earned savings. For the past six years, the 35-year-old self-employed computer specialist has been stashing about \$7,500 a year in equity-based mutual funds that maximize his returns, he says, he is always looking for new opportunities to invest. Recently, his options narrowed dramatically when New York City-based Scudder Stevens & Clark Inc., one of the largest mutual fund companies in the United States—with nearly \$122 billion invested worldwide—began looking overseas to sell a string of its no-load mutual funds in Canada. And when its new sales force hits the street over the next month, it will offer stiff competition to some of the country's most powerful mutual fund players, including the chartered banks and Alamo Investment Services Inc. of Toronto, operator of some of the largest funds in the industry. Investment industry analysts say that when the stormtroopers for dominance in the \$137-billion mutual fund market are out, a number of Canadian firms could be critically wounded. For investors like Selby, however, the increased competition is welcome. "Competition always helps the investor," he says.

Well, Scudder's attempt to carve out a niche in Canada's mutual fund market, in which 75 firms already compete, won't be easy. To date, few American firms have been willing to gamble on crossing the border. Dan Richards, president of Morningstar Solutions, a Toronto-based firm that tracks the industry, notes that while most major U.S. mutual fund companies have considered entering Canada, Scudder is only the third to actually take the plunge. In 1988, Fidelity Investments Inc. of Boston launched mutual fund operations, opened an office in Canada. And last year, the G. J. Capital Management Inc. of San Francisco (But Canada's regulatory environment, which is complicated by the fact that every province regulates the mutual fund sector within its jurisdiction, has deterred most U.S. firms. In addition, it is illegal for American firms to advertise their own investment funds directly in Canada or offer their existing U.S. products in this country. And that one makes it a costly and lengthy process to get established.

But Canadians represent a strong mutual fund market—in July alone, the Investment Funds Institute of Canada reported more than \$1 billion of net mutual fund sales. As a result of that momentum, Mike Gole, president of Toronto-based Scudder Canada Investor Services Ltd., said that his firm

deliberately decided to press ahead. Before doing so, however, it conducted a massive survey of Canadian attitudes about investing to determine specifically what Canadians want from a mutual fund firm. Curious and consumers not only wanted to invest in a firm with a solid understanding of global markets, but they wanted one that is willing to take the time to educate their clients.

The firm will also have something else going for it. Duff Young, a senior vice president at Midland Waters in Toronto, and a leading mutual fund expert, said that management

sets. And while these firms will likely continue to do well, Young said a few may could claim a number of weaker firms.

But whether Scudder will try to build market share by offering low fees is not considered. Fidelity and G. J. Capital Management each adopted the Canadian for structure when they located in Canada, and Curcio says Scudder has not made a decision to invest will structure its charges. She added, "We will certainly be competitive with the Canadian industry."

Even with Canadian-style fees, Scudder would have other advantages in its battle with the Canadian banks and Alamo. Together they control more than three-quarters of the \$64-billion no-load market. Young said Scudder's great strength is its expertise in understanding global markets, where it has been aggressively investing since 1955. Still, Alamo's president, Philip Armstrong, said he welcomed Scudder's presence.



Trading desk at the Bank of Nova Scotia: no-load funds are under fire.

less in mutual funds sold in Canada are generally much higher than they are in the United States. Consequently, he says, many Canadians have flocked to such firms as Alamo to take advantage of no-load no-load funds in which there is no sales commission to buy or sell the product. Sel Young also notes that investors are not always aware that they are still paying stiff management fees on many of those same no-load funds as they increase in value. And if Scudder comes into the market with low U.S.-style management fees, Young said it could trigger a seismic shift in the mutual fund sector, which is dominated by firms such as Investment Group Inc., with \$58 billion under administration, and TriMark Investment Management Inc., which has \$32 billion in as-

sets. Despite years of explosive growth, Alamo, which manages \$2.3 billion in no-load funds, continues to grow at rates above industry averages, and Armstrong said once Scudder begins advertising its no-load funds, it will give the whole sector a higher profile.

It could take years for Scudder to carve out a major niche in Canada, Susan Lewis, president of Royal Mutual Funds Inc., said that while Scudder could set up a mutual fund business quickly, it is expensive to do so, and it will be years before it can make a sizable profit. "Scudder will be a competitor," said Lewis. "But it will be a while before they are happy with their returns." In the meantime, however, even when the Selby are getting another investment option.

TOM PENNELL

# Business NOTES

## SUNQUEST SALE

One of Canada's largest tour operators, Sunquest Vacations Ltd. of Toronto, has been acquired by a British conglomerate for \$60 million. Arrans plc of Manchester, England, has bought out Sunquest, which currently holds about 25 per cent of the package holiday market in Ontario and about 18 per cent of the national market.

## NUCLEAR ELEPHANT

Atomic Energy of Canada Ltd. has put up for sale its left-completer heavy-water plant at Bruceport, Ont., a multi-billion project that cost taxpayers \$640 million. AECI, stalled construction in 1970 when it doubled already had sufficient heavy water.

## BIOCHEM BUZZ

Canadian stock markets pushed up the price of shares in Montreal-based BioChem Pharma Inc. a response to speculation that British drug giant Glaxo Wellcome PLC was poised to make a takeover bid for BioChem. Glaxo already owns 57 per cent of the Canadian company. BioChem management has denied knowledge of any takeover offer.

## EXECUTIVE SHUFFLE

Financially troubled United Communications Inc. has named three new people to its board of directors, now five strong. Charles Woodard, chairman of Richardson-Greenwald of Canada Ltd., Earl Jaunce, chairman of Algoma Steel Inc., and Robert McDougall, former secretary of state, will evaluate takeover proposals.

## JUST SAY NO

The directors of Wallace Computer Services Inc. of Mississauga used the company's shareholders to reject a hostile \$1.5-billion takeover bid from Toronto-based Moore Corp. Ltd. Moore wants to acquire Wallace to strengthen its position as the world's largest business-forms manufacturer and to expand its product line to include computer-based paperless forms. Wallace management denounced the Moore bid as inadequate.

## TRADE BOOM

Strong sales of pills, wheat and industrial goods drove Canadian exports lowered in June. For the month, exports totalled \$20.1 billion, and because of a decline in imports, the trade surplus rose to \$9.9 billion from \$1.3 billion in May. Statistics Canada reports that for the first six months of the year, Canada sold a record \$29.6 billion, rather than a \$22.1 billion profit, because of restructuring costs and lower-than-expected passenger revenues. Canadian lost



**HEAVY-DUTY CONTRACT:** An \$800-million order for 940 armored personnel carriers brings a smile to John Brinkley, production adviser for the Diesel Division of General Motors of Canada Ltd. in London, Ont. out, which will be paid \$480 million for the share of the project, says long-term employment is now guaranteed for 1,035 employees at its plant. The government will also spend \$400 million to upgrade older armored vehicles, with \$100 million to be spent in New Brunswick. Premier Frank McKenna's home riding.

## Airline fares plummet

Canadian Airlines Corp. of Calgary and Montreal-based Air Canada slashed up to 40 per cent for selected programs by as much as 80 per cent last week in the latest skirmish of their long-term battle for passengers. The carrier firms include \$200 tickets for a return flight from Toronto to Vancouver—a full economy fare in \$1,586. Both airlines have added planes and new routes in recent months and are anxious to fill seats.

The latest round of fare cuts, however, was not welcomed in all quarters. Shares in both airlines hit new year lows last week on news of the price reductions, although analysts say the seat sales are a marketing ploy that can be used by only a few passengers in July. Canadian moved its financial outlook for the year and projected a \$300-million loss, rather than a \$521-million profit, because of restructuring costs and lower-than-expected passenger revenues. Canadian lost

\$38 million last year, while Air Canada posted a \$1.29-million profit. Air Canada recently announced a \$23-million loss for the second quarter of 1993 and the pending layoff of some 900 workers.

## Pulp mega-deal

Mergers continued to reshape the forest products industry. Montreal-based Stone Consolidated Corp. wants to combine forces with Toronto-based Barry Forest Products Inc. The proposed \$1 billion deal would create the world's largest producer of woodpulp, which is used in fibers and phone books, and the third-largest producer of newsprint. The deal received the blessing of U.S.-based Stone Consolidated Corp., which owns 60 per cent of Barry Forest and would receive \$448 million in stock in the company would fall to seven per cent when the transaction is completed, while Chicago-based Stone Consolidated Corp. would own a 46-per-cent share in the merged company.



# 'Red' Wilson's trial by competitive fire

BY PETER C. NEWMAN

**N**o corporate empire in this country compares to the sweep and size of Montreal's \$35-billion BCE Inc. Under L. R. "Red" Wilson, the conglomerate's impressive CEO, the country's largest Canadian-owned company reaped profits of \$1.2 billion last year, representing a 40 percent rise from \$850 million in the four months before.

This is a tough time to run anything, especially a concern whose best-known subsidiary, Bell Canada, is a former monopoly whose abundant profits were set by government edict until the deregulation decree of 1982 left some 500 little monies when it was sold to already privatized divisions to raise business phone rates as much as \$60 per month by billing on a per-use basis. The communications giant's per-call approach had been approved by the CRTC in Ottawa as part of its attempt to harmonize the current chaos of telephone rates, but the outcry of organizations such as the Canadian Federation of Independent Business prompted the company to back off.

Shortly after that decision was taken, I interviewed Wilson in his Montreal office and found him to be pleased about his return to the "ground level" of the Bell empire. He has regulated this industry since 1985, he told me. "There has been a social contract between us and Canadians that there would be a lot of cross-subsidies in our business. We would earn large-profit margins in long distance, but apply them to subsidize up local networks. Government regulators would police our internal revenues and expenses, then allow us a return on capital of about 12 per cent, which didn't make us rich, but allowed us to attract the capital necessary to keep going. That contract worked very well. But what happens when you allow competition to only one facet of your business at a time the cross-subsidy goes out of whack. When a lot of new guys moved in to grab pieces of the profitable long-distance market, our ability

*BCE cannot just ignore public protests over approved increases in telephone rates, but the rates cannot be set by angry citizens*

to subsidize local services disappeared."

Wilson is neither apologetic for trying to raise social phone rates nor pious about that such "business" services are already in effect in Britain and parts of the United States, nor sorry that he had to back down. But he makes some interesting points about BCE's unique place in Canada's capitalist universe. "Part of the problem for us," he says, "is that we're 'free' could a company with revenues of \$21 billion can count on extra \$50 cents per call? That's easy! The fact is that our 250,000 shareholders have about \$10 billion in equity tied up in this company, and that the profit we make—including about \$600 million we pay out in dividends—doesn't disappear out of the country, but is reinvested. Our ability to do that depends on continuing to earn a decent return." While he remains optimistic about his company's and his country's future (Wilson sometimes has trouble differentiating between the two), he is well aware that the nature of investments in BCE stock is undergoing a fundamental shift. "Investors are closer to their cash now than before, so they are more likely to sell than to hold, wherever the stock is. And while public protests can't

be ignored, angry citizens cannot ultimately set telephone rates.

"Regulation matters less and less," Wilson maintains. "The driving force has become technology, which is leading us to do things in certain ways. The transition from a monopolistic to a competitive environment will be difficult to manage, for as well as for governments. There are bound to be casualties. While there are many high-tech options becoming available, such as broadband and satellite-based transmissions, wireless and cellular networks, nobody has yet identified the killer technology that's going to do it best."

BCE is a partner in Expresso Inc., a direct-to-home service, that will start beaming 100 TV and radio channels to Canadian homes late this fall over Bell Canada's Anik-E2 satellite. (Wilson recently played his summer cottage in Vermont into an American DirectTV version through an 18-inch dish that delivers 360 channels, including about 100 that beam pay-per-view movies, and 50 that are packaged entertainment services such as HBO and The Disney Channel.)

Under Wilson's driving management style, BCE has become a thriving multinationals, with huge investments in American and British cable systems, and such one-time shows as the purchase of a 54 percent interest in Cingular, the leading cellular telephone service in the region around the Colombian capital of Bogotá. Its Northern Telecom subsidiary (previously renamed Nortel Inc.), has become an international star of high-tech achievements, with \$1.6 billion around the year alone in its research and development facilities. BCE is expanding its fibre-optic network, and its BCE Mobile cellular phone operation is projecting a 35 percent increase in business for the year as it prepares to go digital and move to satellite communications that will allow anyone anywhere in the country to hook into its system.

Robert A. Ford, a former Northern executive, has been appointed to head BCE Mobile, as part of Wilson's complete overhaul of the conglomerate's top executive team. International sales come under Derek Murray, former Canadian ambassador in Washington, while Peter Nicholson, the former Scottish chief economist and policy adviser to Finance Minister Paul Martin, joins BCE on Sept. 1, as senior vice-president of corporate strategy. Jim Osborn, the former president and CEO of Maclean-Hunter joined BCE as chief financial officer. While Peter Sharpe has moved over from Rodolph Sager to be vice-president, corporate services. Together with Jose Maria, who has turned Northern around in record time from the catastrophic stewardship of predecessor Paul Stora, and John McLennan, who is applying new strategy to the problems of Bell, this is undoubtedly BCE's most experienced executive team. They likely are also to be joined in the short-lived "watermark" of BCE's new competitive environment.

## York...A History of Great Performance Through Innovation



York's great innovations and services to professionals and homeowners. York has been a leader in home comfort innovations since 1874. York products are used in millions of homes, offices, hotels and other buildings.

York's reputation as an effective innovator was reinforced again when York was chosen to develop an air conditioning system to cool the Channel. Europe's leading company in air conditioning Great Britain to France.

### Triathlon - A Great New Innovation From York

Developed and field-tested over a ten year period in conjunction with the North American Natural Gas Industry, York's new Triathlon is the world's most efficient natural gas heating and cooling system. Powered by clean, economical and environmentally friendly natural gas, the Triathlon is designed to provide year-round 100% water comfort while consuming substantially less energy than the most efficient of other heating and cooling technologies available.

Consumers Gas, Union Gas and Centre Gas Ontario are working with York and York dealers to introduce this exciting new technology to homeowners and businesses in Ontario.

### A Great Performance Requires Great Dealers

Innovative and reliable products represent only part of your home comfort solution. Professional sales, application, installation and service are the other key ingredients for your long-term satisfaction. Your York dealer is a thoroughly trained heating and cooling professional who provides these key ingredients necessary for a great performance.

### Compose Your Home Comfort Performance

York's full line of state-of-the-art equipment, combined with a strong dealer network of professional York dealers, are all it takes to deliver the home comfort performance you require - specific to your needs and budget.

Union Gas  
Energy Inc.

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Since 1874.

COVER  
**'I've done terrible things. I deserve to be punished. But I didn't kill these girls.'**

# IN HIS OWN DEFENCE

Paul Bernardo  
admits he raped,  
but insists he did  
not kill

BY DAIRCY JENISH

Members of the jury. Left to the stand Paul Bernardo  
—Defense lawyer John Rosen, Aug. 15

**W**ith those words as his cue, the handsome 30-year-old defendant in one of the most horrific murder trials in Canadian history stepped out of the prisoner's box, walked briskly to the witness stand and began trying to explain the unthinkable—his involvement in the brutal rapes and tragic deaths of 14-year-old Leslie Milatich and 15-year-old Kristina French. Under Rosen's questioning, Bernardo readily admitted that he had raped, comforted and sexually assaulted the two girls in the St. Catharines, Ont., home he shared with his wife, Karla Homolka. Then, with the voice and demeanor of a contrite schoolboy, the former housekeeper turned to the courtroom and declared, "People, I know I've done a lot of terrible things. And I've caused a lot of



The victims' parents listen as Homolka cross-examines Bernardo. Milatich's mother left. French's mother is in the background.

sadness and sorrow to a lot of people, and I'm really sorry for that and know I deserve to be punished. But I didn't kill these girls."

Bernardo's version of events followed the testimony of 10 Crown witnesses in a trial that began three months ago. With his testimony almost completed after 2½ days last week, the defense had only one more witness scheduled, and it lasted briefly the trial would wrap up before the end of August, possibly as early as this week. With the jury apparently able to decide Bernardo's fate, a curious public, shocked by the unspeakable horror of the crimes, debated the emerging details of the case, which had been kept under wraps by a court-ordered publication ban until this summer.

By last week, the jury had repeatedly seen 2½ hours of unsettling home-made videotapes depicting Bernardo, his ex-wife and their victim engaging in various degrading sexual acts. And it had heard Homolka herself—who since the crimes has divorced Bernardo and is already serving concurrent 12-year terms for manslaughter—testify that he strangled both victims in the master bedroom of their home. But Bernardo emphatically denied those accusations, insisting instead that his victims died accidentally and, in both cases, only when he had left them alone with Homolka.

In a quick and subtle examination that lasted less than three hours, Rosen questioned Bernardo about his entire 15-year relationship with Homolka. On several occasions, Bernardo directly contradicted key pieces of his ex-wife's testimony. He maintained that, together, they had sexually abused Homolka's 15-year-old sister, Tamara, at least once before the one tragic night that Homolka acknowledges—drugging and raping the unconscious teenager on Dec. 30, 1990, an attack that led to her death when she choked on her vomit. In addition, contrary to Homolka's claim that she played no part in the dismembering of Milatich's body with a power saw, Bernardo said he handled the body parts in his cell during cleanup of the room.

Rosen also cleared up one of the lingering mysteries of the trial: the whereabouts of the graphic videotapes that alerted police when they searched the Bernards' home for evidence while the Crown was negotiating a plea bargain arrangement with Homolka. Rosen explained that on May 6, 1991, about three months after Bernardo's arrest and six days after police had confiscated their embarrassing sexuals, Bernardo's lawyer at the time, Ron Murray, later had access to the house. While in the dwelling, Murray received a call on his cellular phone from Bernardo, who told him where to find the videotapes. Bernardo testified that, shortly after Homolka left him on Jan. 5, 1993, he had removed a portable videotape in the upstairs bedroom and hid the tapes in the ceiling. But neither Rosen nor Bernardo explained why Murray wouldn't tapes until Sept. 16, 1994, when he withdrew from the case—16 months after Homolka had agreed to testify against Bernardo in exchange for her relatively lenient sentence.

Along with the promise of getting the videotapes on the stand and leaving him open to potentially damaging questioning by the prosecution, Rosen's disposition with his witness quickly Crown attorney Ray Houlden then launched his cross-examination with a dramatic flourish. He played a segment of videotape for the jury, showing French being raped, and of French's mother in front of the rape tape on the floor in which Bernardo's face was visible in obvious rage. In a voice filled with indignation, Houlden snapped: "That's the face of a killer, isn't it?" Bernardo, however, coolly dismissed the assertion. He did the same dance of other times in what appeared



into a rambling, often digressed cross-examination.

Bernardo's testimony took on a surreal tone as he repeatedly offered lateral explanations for the most heinous acts. He peddled over-the-top, scripted lies in court, when he remarked, in a serious tone, that he would probably require professional help to deal with his sexuality. He told Houlahan that his videotapes—showing the terrified teenage victim being forced to perform dozens of sexual acts, sometimes with their feet bound and their hands cuffed—were simply his version of home-made pornography. Had even though the girls screamed in agony at times, especially when he raped them orally, Bernardo calmly stated that he and Houlahan were acting out shared fantasies of three-way sex, in which the participants were happy and loved one another. That left Houlahan to suggest sarcastically, "Is this your idea of the three-way sex you wanted?"

Houlahan also used the videotapes to cast Bernardo's claim that Houlahan enjoyed having multiple partners in court as he did, and his assertion that they were equal participants in the attacks on French and Mahaffy. On the tapes, he testified, Bernardo can be heard moaning virtually all of the instructions while Houlahan, along with the victim, performs sexual acts solely for his pleasure. After playing one segment, showing Bernardo drinking champagne and smiling at the camera while Houlahan and a blonded Mahaffy simultaneously masturbate him, the Crown attorney engaged in a typically hostile exchange with the defendant.

"You're the producer and director here, aren't you, Houlahan snapped.

"Yes, and so is Karla," replied Bernardo.

"You're acting like the king, the master."

"I was having three-way sex."

Throughout his testimony, Bernardo insisted that he and Houlahan were continually searching for new and unusual sexual adventures from the night they met at a Toronto hotel on Oct. 27, 1987. At the time, he was a 25-year-old university graduate and working accountant. The level with his parents at suburban Scarborough, while she was a 17-year-old Grade 12 student in St. Catharines. A couple of hours after meeting in the hotel restaurant, they were having sex in her room, even though another couple was present. The following summer, he said, they had a Polaroid camera for taking sexually explicit photos, including one in which he placed a rope around her neck and pressed a knife to her head while having intercourse from behind.

In court, he testified, he told the court that he by the summer of 1990 their sexual interest had taken a dangerous new turn. Although they enjoyed in Houlahan, Bernardo had become sexually attracted to her younger sister Tammy. During a Sunday afternoon party at the Houlahan residence, the teenager accompanied him across the nearby border to New York state for what was supposed to be a quick trip to purchase beer. Instead, they parked at a secluded spot near the Niagara River, got drunk, and ended up having sex and preying. After being confronted by his angry and suspicious fiancée, he admitted what had happened.

After that, Bernardo told the jurors, he and Houlahan began talking about having sex with Tammy, then made a plan to drag and rape her in late July, 1990. Houlahan stole some Valium from the veterinary clinic where she worked as an assistant, he said, and one night, they gave Tammy wine and served her a spaghetti dinner spiked with the drug. Tammy passed out, he testified. Bernardo said, and he had sexual intercourse with her for about a minute before she began to wake up. That incident led to further transgressions, such as spying on her as she undressed at night, other attempts to assault her and, finally, the final Dec. 31, 1990, attacks in which they knocked her out with a powerful sedative, then administered an anesthetic while she lay back face.

With Tammy gone, Bernardo said, he and Houlahan began to talk about getting other girls for their sexual pleasure. In mid-January,



Bernardo arriving at court; Houlahan questioning Bernardo in Jean's testimony

## 'I thought she would be a nice girl to have sex with Karla'

1990, while Houlahan's parents and sister were away in Toronto on business, he picked up a young female hitchhiker in St. Catharines, locally brought her back to the Houlahan house and raped her in Karla's bedroom. "I had the girl on the floor, and Karla stood in the doorway," he told the jury. "It was supposed to be for three-way sex, but the girl wasn't compliant. She was fighting and arguing so Karla decided to help me out. I took the girl out to a back street and strangled her off, and it was never reported."

Bernardo asserted that the Mahaffy abduction became much like the hitchhiker incident, with a chance meeting, and it was supposed to end by dropping the victim, also but violated, at an isolated location. At that time, Bernardo and Houlahan were living together; their brutal, fairy tale wedding was less than two years long, and he was earning his living by scuffling carpentry from the United States.

Bernardo told the jury that in the early morning hours of June 15, 1992, he was near the Mahaffy home in Burlington, Ont., 30 km from his own home, trying to steal license plates to use on his car during his alcohol-fueled smuggling trips across the U.S. border. He said he accidentally bumped into Mahaffy just outside her home and spontaneously decided to abduct her. "I thought she was attractive, and I thought she would be a nice girl to have sex with Karla," Bernardo stated.

He testified that he merely wanted to enjoy Houlahan because the previous week, she had hired a teenager to be in their home for three-way sex. That girl, who testified against Bernardo under the pseudonym Jean Doe, was drugged and, while unconscious, sexually assaulted and videotaped. In his cross-examination, Houlahan pointedly asked Bernardo to explain numerous inconsistencies in his story about the attack on Mahaffy. He noted that, even though the girl was supposed to be a prostitute for Houlahan, Bernardo remained alone with her for about 14 hours, until about 4 p.m. on June 15. During that time, he raped Mahaffy and videotaped her performing numerous degrading acts. Only after they both showered did he take Mahaffy upstairs to the master bedroom for sex with Houlahan.

The sexual activity, accompanied by steady consumption of alcohol, continued about 1 a.m. on June 16, by which time a drunken Mahaffy was becoming hysterical, and Bernardo, by his own account, had been enough. He said he and Houlahan gave Mahaffy

enough Blotter to render her unconscious, and he intended to drop her somewhere back in Burlington. But when he returned to the bedroom after getting ready to leave, he said, he found the girl dead, possibly from the combined effects of drugs and alcohol. "What we did was for sex," Bernardo calmly stated. "It shouldn't have cost the girl her life. We were pretty much hysterical afterward."

Throughout, both work's testimony, Bernardo never said his conscience, was never caught lying and, at times, seemed to enjoy drug usage answers back at Houlahan, whose cross-examination was wisest and stiffest. When the Crown attorney asked him, combed questions, Bernardo took delight in saying he did not understand the query or with a shrill expression on his face, asking, "What a question, sir?" Nevertheless, the prosecutor relentlessly pursued Bernardo and attempted to expose the improbable aspects of his story through a steady and dogged presentation of facts. He asked the accused man to recount in meticulous detail the April 30, 1992, abduction of French, in which he and Houlahan forced the St. Catharines teenager into their car, in broad daylight, as she was returning home from work. According to Bernardo, they had been driving to a shopping center, that afternoon and had no plans to kidnap anyone. But the conversation turned to girls, he said, and Houlahan spotted a teenage sex friend, who seemed to be French. In 15 to 30 seconds, he testified, they devised their kidnapping plan. "At the time," he explained, "Karla and me had evolved so much in our sexual life, so much fantasy and actual events had happened. I was fantasizing about every day, and we used drugs at the time, and we were basically out of control."

But Houlahan pointed out to the jury that Bernardo hoped to have a "hunting" talk in his Nissan 200SX, sports car, and used the weapon during the abduction. He noted, too, that there was a Master's address

over French for the short drive home. The Crown attorney also spent considerable time attacking Bernardo's assertion that he and Houlahan always intended to release French once they had satisfied their sexual desires. He wondered how they could conceivably think about releasing a victim who would clearly be capable of identifying them. Houlahan's pursuit of a conviction by stating that French was bludgeoned in one of the first videotapes made in the Houlahan home. But in another segment about a few hours later her eyes were uncovered. In one of the most pointed accusations of his cross-examination, Houlahan said that the removal of the blindfold was the equivalent of a death sentence. "I take it she wasn't going home once the blindfold came off?" he asked.

"She was going home," Bernardo blantly replied. "Notwithstanding that she'd seen your faces, your car and your house," Houlahan shot back incredulously.

"She was going home, she was going to stay, I hadn't made up my mind," the accused man finally said.

Although the jury had already seen the numerous videotapes, some parts as much as had a dozen times. Houlahan played them all again, memorable questions to Bernardo. He asked him to explain, in as much as he could, how he and French came to be in a room together to make his point. He noted that in one segment, shot early in French's three-day ordeal, the sobbing and terrified girl in kneeling on the floor while a sexually aroused Bernardo stands in front of her. "I suggest she was degraded and humiliated and thus gave you a full erection," Houlahan snapped at Bernardo.

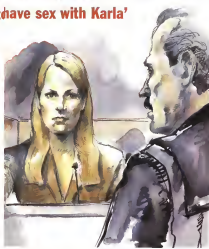
"Was control because I was about to get laid?" he responded. "But because you had control and I was humiliated and I was the perpetrator asked again. 'Doesn't that turn you on more sexually?'"

"I can't say what turns me on more, sir," he said.

While he was prepared to admit beating the teenager, Bernardo was adamant that French's death was accidental. He said that in the early evening of April 18, a Saturday, he went out for beer and food and to rent a video, leaving Houlahan guarding French. The young girl's feet were bound and her hands were cuffed behind her back. As well, Bernardo had tied a black electrical cord around her neck and fastened it to the base chest in the master bedroom. He contends that, while he was out, French managed to break the cord and escape. When Houlahan noticed her, he tried to escape and strangled herself to death.

That bare little resemblance in Houlahan's version of events. She testified that French had died the following morning, Easter Sunday. She and Bernardo had taken turns sexually abusing her, she testified, and she said, then he raped her orally and sexually while holding a black electrical cord around her neck. When Bernardo was finished, she said, he strangled French, largely because they were expected at her parents' house for Easter dinner and could not risk leaving her alive.

Despite the breadth of the trial and the abundance of horrifying evidence, defense lawyer Bowen told the 12 jurors that they do not have many questions to ponder. "You just have to push the jury button on that video machine, and you have the whole case before you," he said. "There is no doubt in my mind that the truth of these Karla Houlahan and Paul Bernardo—sexually assaulted and unlawfully confined these victims. The real question is who caused their deaths." After three months of testimony, it had come down to a matter of credibility—Houlahan's, and Bernardo's. With their contradictory stories before them, that was the issue that the right man and four women of the jury had to resolve. □





# On top of her game

For Monica Seles, tennis is 'just fun' again

I never really doubted whether Monica Seles would make it to the finals of the de Munnier Open tennis championships in Toronto last week. The only thing that concerned, both for Seles and for women's tennis, was that she played Sharone. Sharone, number 1 ranking with Germany's Steffi Graf on the professional circuit, the 21-year-old Serbian-born international American had not won a match since April 30, 1993, when a disgruntled fan strangled her in the back during a tournament in Hamburg, Germany. Her physical injuries healed quickly but the psychological trauma endured, aggravated by the suspended sentence handed down to her as a result by the German courts. Now, after months in psychiatric hospital and in prison, she is back. "Tennis is all I have done since as early as age 10," she said after winning her first match in straight sets against American Kimberly Po. "I was missing it so much that I was not the same person."

On the court, however, it was quickly apparent that Seles had lost none of the talent that had helped her win eight Grand Slam trophies and earn more than \$50 million in career prize money. Ten pounds heavier than her ideal playing weight, she had the same vicious, two-handed groundstroke slammed down the line or cross-court, leaving opponents transfixed. Her physical conditioning she conceived, still left something to be desired, and there was nagging concern about ten-digits in her left knee. But no one could deny that she had the general feel of her game. "She takes the ball as early and hits it as hard," said French woman Nathalie Tauziat, a third-round victim, as she straight sets. "But I don't think she's as hard." That was a reference to Seles's habit of grounding in the hits the ball, an idiosyncrasy that was distrusted and answered more than one opponent.

As she barrel up for the U.S. Open starting Aug. 28 in Flushing Meadows, N.Y., Seles could hardly afford to be miffed to the technical aspects of her game. Still, she was clearly pleased to get to her back on the court in a competitive situation, concentrated

ing only "on the ball and the racket." In a sport overrun by A-listers, by pampered professionals whose accidents are often relieved only by their wives, Seles's genuine enthusiasm for the game itself is refreshing. "I worked very hard on getting over the strabbling," she said, her voice cracking. "I told myself, 'You're a strong person. You can get through this.' I was living in the dark for a



Seles: 'I worked very hard on getting over the strabbling'

long time. Now I see the light. It's just fun to be playing again." Her love for the sport notwithstanding, Seles is not exactly sailing in the endorsement arena. She recently signed a multiyear contract with Nike, estimated to be worth \$10 million a year.

Tournament organizers in Italy hoped that Seles would meet Graf, her longtime rival, in the final match on Sunday, Aug. 28. Promoting Graf's career was allegedly the assassin's motive in the Hamburg stabbing incident. But Graf had not played a match since winning her sixth Wimbledon singles title in early July. And, unlike Seles, she

showed the effects of layoff. Playing in scarier 30°C temperatures she made 33 very ungraceful unforced errors in losing her opening-round encounter with South African Amanda Coetzer.

Ironically, while Seles is retraining from her lone exile and resuming her claim as the number 1 ranking in women's tennis, it is Graf who is now playing under a shadow of personal distress. Her back is frequently in pain. Her maternal grandfather is seriously ill. And her father, Peter, is in protective custody in Germany, accused of ending about \$2 million in losses in bet. German authorities are said to be investigating whether the 36-year-old Graf, who owns a house in the Boca Raton area of Florida and a condominium in Manhattan, is herself liable for back issues.

In the explosion surrounding Seles's return, the performance of two tennis goddesses was largely overlooked. One is Switzerland's Martina Hingis. At 24, a winner of junior titles at both Wimbledon and the French Open, she is already ranked 2nd in the world—up from 39th only 18 months ago. Last week, Hingis rolled over two opponents before succumbing to Canadian-born Mary Pierce, who plays for France as straight sets.

Uncharacteristically perhaps, in one instance was focused on Venus Williams, a stoic, stoic 19-year-old black American phenomenon from Compton, Calif. More than six feet, one inch tall, Williams has her first-round match against Belgium's Sabine Liszkowski in straight sets. Her visit to Toronto, she said, marked her first trip outside the United States. "If you don't count Yugoslavia, I had to get my passport stamped, and everything." Now a student at Black Mountain tennis academy in Florida, Williams is being carefully groomed for a major career in tennis. But although she hits the ball with tremendous force, it is not yet clear that she knows how to play the game—to develop points with tactical thinking and execution.

Perhaps unfortunately, Williams wore a full set of white bands on her hair. As she moved effortlessly around the court, the bands made a peeping sound, like the sound of money. That may not have been altogether inappropriate. Although she was appearing in only her third tournament since turning professional last year, Williams has already signed a contract with Decibel reported to be worth more than \$14 million a year. For Decibel, it's a huge roll of the corporate dice. But if Williams ever begins to approach the talent of a Monica Seles, she will pay huge dividends.

MICHAEL POSNER

SUNDAY • OCTOBER 1 • 1995

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## A crisis in the Simpson trial

*A detective's intemperate remarks undermine the prosecution's case*

**F**ew many of the jurors in the modern-day fable that is the O.J. Simpson murder trial, the case has brought not only public notoriety, but private anguish. Apart from Simpson himself—who is charged with murdering his ex-wife, Nicole Brown Simpson, and her friend Ronald Goldman—lawyers, witnesses and even jurors have faced a level of personal scrutiny as unprecedented in a criminal proceeding. The only figure to remain relatively untroubled by the soap opera-like developments of what Americans are calling their Trial of the Century has been Judge Lance Ito. But last week, it was his turn to endure the spotlight. In a twist that is bizarre even by the unique standards of the Simpson case, defense attorneys reminded the existence of a videotape containing derogatory comments about Ito's wife, Capt. Margaret York, who is the highest ranking woman in the Los Angeles Police Department. The comments were made by one of the prosecution's witnesses, Kenneth Caster, who was Mike Eruzione, who won the

**It's good Turk:** the judge's wife will not agree to testify

reported to York. Clearly pained by the results, he argued with prosecutors that, if York had to testify about these communists, he would have to remove himself from the complex trial that he has been overseeing for seven months. "I love my wife dearly," he told the court, appearing to be on the verge of tears. "I am wounded by criticism of her name; none would be."

The incident exploded like a bombshell in the world of a film already plagued by so many allegations that it seems more like a circus than a court of justice. The tapes are a record of conversations between Fuhrman and Laura Ellert McGinnis, an aspiring screenwriter, and films writer and actor from North Carolina, were prepared for a project on how politicians can abuse money personnel on a bribery police report. Covering a nine-year period beginning in 1985, they are larded with references by Fuhrman to police concerning violence as well as harassment and bending rules while assisting Fuhrman, who denies allegations that he was a racist when he testified earlier in the trial, slanders women, Muslims and Jews on the tape. He also insinuates Yanks, whom he says saved him to further his



over. By playing his position on the bench in court, the tapes briefly raised the prospect of a lengthy delay to allow another judge to take over—or even of a reversal.

And by working at the reputation of the Los Angeles police, they could still lead to an investigation of the troubled force: "A lot of people who don't believe what African-Americans say about the police will be shocked," said prominent Los Angeles defense attorney Harold Brans. "Everyone will call for change."



While prosecution lawyers had been aware of the existence of the tapes for at least a month, they appeared taken aback when the virulence of Fubiner's comments became known last week. Attempting to keep the tapes from becoming the mostly black, very loud prosecution Deputy District Attorney Marcus Clark acknowledged that Fubiner may not be a hero, but asserted that his comments merely show him "boiling and blowing" to



*Fahrman* received

writer seeking colorful information about life on a police force. He was talking about defense witnesses, she insisted, and his remarks are irrelevant to the Simpson case. But the defense team could not hide its excitement over the contents of the tapes. Juries defend counsel! Johnnie Cochran Jr. said they show that Fuhrman's powerful testimony—he was the detective who found the notorious bloody glove behind Simpson's house—has been proven to be that of a liar and a racist.

Initially insisting that his had no choice but to withdraw from the case, Clark later reached an agreement with the defense that he should stay on the bench while the tapes were sent to another judge, John Reed, for a ruling on whether York should testify. Reed, in turn, concluded before the end of the week that the inadmissibility of York was not material to the case, leaving it to Reed to preside over the remainder of the trial. Meanwhile, Clark continued to argue for the tapes to be kept out of court altogether. So accused Cochran of "the race card," and said the interval the tapes were reviewed by a system to assist him.

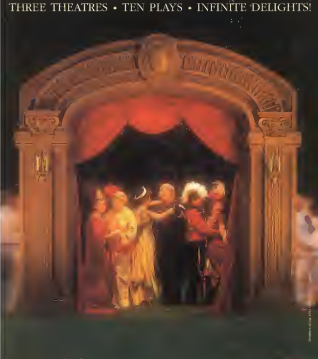
Some legal experts speculated that Clark stopped demanding it's worth the effort because of minor public pressure not to perpetuate obvious delay, or worse.

According to some members of the Los Angeles legal community the tapes have bolstered a growing conviction that the case is turning in favor of the defense.

"There is a significant shift that jurors will discuss," Professor Robert Weisbach, with Peter A. Arellano, professor of law at the University of California in Los Angeles. "The defense's position continues. They have the tapes that could turn this trial into a referendum on the LAPD's record of O.J.'s past innocence."

Clark, however, is not aware of the "shift" because he is not the "last defense in a winner effort."

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# The pressure to change libel law

BY GEORGE RAINE

Along with what they say about medicine and commenting on literary or artistic work, defamations are one of the most common causes of litigation in passing judgments (especially unfavourable) upon the qualities of anything. No revelation there. The question is whether criticism can then be said to encompass anything that anyone might ever choose to say about a public official with negligible risk of the critic being sued.

It was in the proposition that every Canadian has an inalienable right of criticism that the Supreme Court of Canada delivered a sham—but, at 173 pages, not terse—answer on July 28. Essentially, the court's message was, "Criticism, yes, but accusations founded on facts that do not substantiate them to the reputation of individuals, no."

The court's response was primarily to a libel judgment against the Church of Scientology and a Toronto defence lawyer, Morris Manning, who had been sued for remarks about an Ontario Crown attorney. An Ontario court had awarded damages of \$14 million, the largest award ever in Canada in a libel suit, and that decision was reaffirmed on appeal. The defendants then turned to the Supreme Court, with the issue resolved.

But the court's message was also to the media, which were present in the courtroom as interested parties—observers. By their demonstrated interest in the case, the media had encouraged Scientology in arguing that Canadian libel law centralizes the 1962 constitutional guarantee of freedom of expression. The effect, the media have maintained, has been to create a "chilling effect," which may cause unwelcome stories to be suppressed.

The media also encouraged the notion that the case has come to make Canadian libel law more American—which is neither way of putting the matter. The media's exaggerated difference between the two sets of

## What was such a nice bunch of nationalist publishers doing in the Supreme Court arguing for Americanization of the Canadian law?

law as they stand is found in cases involving public officials. (The plaintiff in the Church of Scientology affair, Casey Hall, was an Ontario Crown attorney at the time, and is now a judge.) The difference is that, in Canada, a public official is treated as any other citizen; in the United States, a public official must demonstrate that an allegedly defamatory statement was not just untrue, but that it was untrue due to malice or reckless disregard for the truth. Since those are not easy things to prove, American reporters or most commentators writing with libelous language have been to worry about.

In Canada, that is turned around, with the whole approach to libel being more sympathetic to the party claiming injury than in the United States. That comes from what is called "the reverse onus." It means that any Canadian broadcaster or publisher proposing to rely on the defence of truth in a libel suit—the surest defence of all—must be prepared to prove it; it is not the plaintiff's responsibility to prove it.

The July 28 judgment, written by Justice Peter Cory, was joined 7-5 by the rest of the court. It said the law provides an appropriate balance between protecting people's reputa-

tion and ensuring the freedom of the media—which see themselves as guardians of the public's right to know what might never come to light but for them. In vulgar language—mine—the court was saying to the media, "This jurisdiction of yours, noble as it may be, will have to be performed without the actors implicit in American 'libel' thinking that a little bit of defamation in a good cause is not a sin."

Cases do not float up to the Supreme Court of Canada on their own. Since the 1970s, the court has controlled its own docket, with its own criteria for hearing cases, letting that they should embrace an issue of broad public importance and legal significance. In the early stages, HIV versus Church of Scientology and Manning was a fairly straightforward libel case. The essence of the allegations against Hall was that he misled a judge and lunched a court order that expunged some 200 Scientology documents—and that he ought to be cited for contempt of court. Those allegations were printed in even after they were known not to be true.

It is reasonable to assume that it was the broad public importance of the issue of media rights, rather than any kind of legal principle in the process, that put the case on the Supreme Court docket. Assuming the broadest possible interpretation of freedom of the press has been a media enterprise no less as there has been a Charter of Rights to the freedom of the press formal recognition. Obtaining a lower level of libel, at least by turning the so-called reverse onus, was a key objective. Now the Supreme Court having said the law as it stands makes a good balance and, in effect, that the conventional Americanization is unnecessary or desirable, the media feel themselves bound with the need to persuade Parliament to resolve the law itself—and to correct reasons why it should do so in the face of a strong objection by the Supreme Court.

A majority of the 11 judges that had stood up an interview at the appeal only had the Canadian Civil Liberties Association and the Attorney General of Ontario—had no discernible interests in the commerce of putting words on paper or on the air. The others were the "Mainstream" United States, the Canadian arm of the international writers-and-publishers organization, PEN, the Canadian Association of Journalists, the Periodical Writers Association of Canada, partly with the Book and Periodical Council, the Canadian Daily Newspaper Association, the Canadian Community Newspapers Association, the Canadian Association of Broadcasters, the Radio-Television News Directors Association of Canada, and the Canadian Book Publishers Council (jointly with the Canadian Magazine Publishers Association).

It was enough to make anyone ask what kind of a risk it was to litigate with so much in a place like that, giving comfort to people arguing for the Americanization of Canadian law.



Ryan Speedo-Smith endlessly solving mysteries

## SUPER SLEUTHING

When it came time to cast the leads in Nancy Drew, Rebecca Laid's new television series based on the classic mystery novels for young women, producer Michael Klein did some serious sleuthing himself. A woman

solving mysteries "I think it is good for males to see something of a role reversal," says Speedo-Smith. Adds Ryan: "I think Nancy is a terrific modern-day role model—an intelligent and independent young woman who instinctively helps people in trouble."



Moore: I am absolutely "Toots"

## NORTH-SOUTH TRADE

Being from Texas doesn't just mean having an accent there. It is who you are, says blues guitar player Jim Moore. "I am absolutely Texas," he adds, "but when you're young, you don't have to try to act the stereotypes—larger-than-life, better than the rest of the world. You just live life the best you can in the best place you can." But even though Moore, 31, hails from Austin, the home of music legends Jerry Jeff Walker, Willie Nelson and the late Stevie Ray Vaughan, to whom Moore is frequently compared, the blues player headed to Quebec for some help on his music. On his recently released third CD, *Modern Day Folklore*, he features Montreal-based singer Steve Jordan and credits industry producer Daniel Lanois for helping him put things in place. Montreal may be a long way north of Texas, but a musical connection can clearly transcend the distance.



## AN ACCIDENTAL DISCOVERY

Needling a spot on a network newsmagazine is something many local television journalists do every day. But for Leslie Roberts, former host of the morning TV talk show *Montreal AM Live*, it has become a reality, with a twist. Last week, Roberts, 32, started as the New York

City-based correspondent for A Current Affair—after being discovered by accident. As his Montreal show, he had interviewed Suzie Lamm, a comedian who promotes anti-sex lawsuits. They used the interview as part of her promotion tape. But high-powered Los Angeles talent agent, Debbie Perry, who saw the tape, thought that she could market Roberts in the United States. She was right. Within weeks, Roberts, a fourth-generation Montrealer

## PEOPLE

## THE CANUCK OF SUMMER

Pitching for the Boston Red Sox is a lot of fun, says New Brunswick-born Brian Cormier, one of the starting pitchers for the team. "We never knew to a pleasant rest or on a team this good," he says of his first season with the leaders in the American League East division. "If I wasn't thrilled with being here, I'd say I am in the wrong job," adds Cormier, who will keep a home in Shediac, N.B., near Moncton, for the all-season Cormier—who worked as a lumberjack to pay his



Cormier: in the pleasant race

way through university before heading into the major leagues—says that he would love to spend his time off as a World Series champion. But, he says, he shouldn't be thinking that far ahead, and so he is putting all of his energies into winning the division race. "The big picture has the World Series in it, of course," he adds, "but for the moment, I am taking it one game at a time."

Roberts: a wild six months

journalist, had offers from ABC and CBS, as well as from Fox, which syndicates A Current Affair. "It's been a wild six months," Roberts says. "When I first heard about this, I didn't think anything would happen. And now I am in New York and work for A Current Affair. Go figure."

Edited by BARBARA WICKENS

# Truth or fiction?

Controversy dogs a new book about revenge

Anybody meeting Lorenzo Carcatena next night might think the New York City author has it made. His portfolio of hit books includes and spans 14 titles, he has been named for 14 years in *Saturday Night*, and he's in *People* magazine and the number of his two children, Kate, 13, and Nicholas, 9. And his professional stock is soaring. Carcatena's gritty bestselling book, *Stojan*, about four friends who take revenge on the reformist mayor who raped and abandoned them years earlier, has generated as much excitement that his publicity or Ballantine Books, has released it six months earlier than scheduled. But in conversation, Carcatena makes it clear that the book, which deals with some terrible events in his own life, has not healed some of his old wounds. And in fact, it seems to have opened some new ones.

Part of the hoopla surrounding *Stojan* stems from the fact that it's a movie company. Propaganda Films, bought the rights to the book for more than \$3 million. Barry Levinson, the director of such hit films as *Good Morning, Vietnam* and *Rain Man*, has already bowed up Brad Pitt, Dustin Hoffman, Jason Patric and Robert De Niro with promises of movie rights, and he's cast in the film, which is due out in the fall of 1996. But the older reason that *Stojan* has created a stir is that, even though some directors have declined the chilling tale to be based on the author's memoir that it is a true account of his early life.

The book tells of Carcatena and his friends, identified as Michael, John and Tony, running wild in the 1960s on the streets of Hell's Kitchen, a tough, inner-neighborhood of Manhattan. But after one of their pranks goes seriously wrong—a beating cut they run off with girls away from their newly crushing a man as death—the four are sent to the Williams Howard Boys in upstate New York. There, four guards systematically abuse them for the year they are incarcerated.

A decade later, Carcatena is a club reporter for the New York Daily News. Michael is a fledgling prosecutor in the district attorney's office, and John and Tony are mob hit men. When the latter two encounter one of their former tormentors in a back yard, they shoot

him in cold blood. Michael arranges to prosecute the case, and does it deliberately badly enough that his friends are acquitted. Carcatena acts as a go-between, leading the defense against adults from Michael's office such as how to discredit one eyewitness, and even persuading the neighborhood priest, Father Bobby, to be under oath and testify that John and Tony were with him the night of the shooting.

As a story of legality and revenge, *Stojan*—along with its previous two



Carcatena writing about terrible events in his own life has opened some new wounds.

traced to more than five months in a state hospital—its previously satisfying. But for some reviewers, at the least reader has tied up little too neatly. *The New York Times* accused Carcatena of blurring the line between fact and fiction. Other critics said without success to find a transcript of the trial and uncover the identities of Michael, who quit law after fleeing to Europe, and Father Bobby, who still lives in New York.

Today, Carcatena is himself part of the New York media elite. As well as having worked at the *Daily News*, he has been a writer for the production television show *Top Cops* and this fall will write for the highly acclaimed *TV* series that Levinson produces, *Murdered at the Street*. Still, he seems primarily surprised by the skeptical media reaction. "It's not like it's a breaking story that caused 30 years ago," he says. "It was a minor story that passed 30 years ago." And the interest of a

transcript proves nothing, he adds, because when a nationally syndicated is rendered, the court secretary does not usually transcribe the court record. Carcatena also wonders what the media hype is accomplish by looking Michael. "So they find him, he holds a press conference and says 'Yeah, it's all true and then he kills himself'."

Carcatena has clearly lived the best of the few childhood friends. John and Tony are dead, and Michael, he says, is a "broken shell of a man" for whom he has "found" final resolution in "no sense of closure." Carcatena credits his parents with helping him recover from his ordeal of the reformist now enough he'd do it all over again, but afterward what had happened to him. "They weren't educated people, but they knew this was a little boy who needed help," he says. Still, Carcatena has plenty of scars. He has work and again problems—a result, he says, of the beating 30 years ago—which make a difficult even to read consistently. With sig-

nares and flashbacks still playing him as well, he gets acoly about 1:15 hours of sleep a night, he says. He adds that writing *Stojan* was one of the most difficult things he has ever done. "I quit writing if three different times," he says. "I was doing up so much stuff that I had tried so hard to bury." He says that the book recounts only a small portion of what he is now happened at the institution. "I have to decide now whether I want to keep working with my therapist or something say more memoirs," says Carcatena.

But *Stojan* shows how deep the author's dedication in writing a real memoir was like a good novel. That may be precisely why some critics doubt its veracity in the end. The debate over whether *Stojan* is largely fact or fiction may be moot—it's a truth as Carcatena knows it.

BARBARA WICKERS

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# Ordinary hero

An Irishman in Australia struggles to survive

A RIVER TOWN

By Thomas Kenally  
(Toronto, 320 pages, \$21.95)

THE prolific Australian author Thomas Kenally almost always writes about the effect of historical incidents on the lives of ordinary people, and he does it with a novelist's nerve. The best haven of his 23 novels, *The Chant of James Blacksmith* (1972), about racial outrage in northern New South Wales in 1900, and the Booker Prize-winning *Saltwater Cat* (1982), became critically acclaimed films. And his new novel captures the same kind of gripping transiency even when the descriptive passages in *A River Town* are flat, or rendered ineffective by dense clouds of Australian colloquial-



Kenally: cracking chagles and a severed head

isms, the dialogue positively crackles. In his setting for *A River Town*, Kenally returns to the time and place of James Blacksmith. The story revolves around Irish migrant Tim Shea, who, with his pregnant

wife, Kitty, is attempting to make a go of a general store in the small town of Kempsey, 250 km north of Sydney. In the opening pages, a policeman attempts to learn the identity of a young woman who died during a botched abortion. To jog the memory, the constable carries the woman's severed head around in a jar of alcohol—a sight that haunts Shea throughout the book. Why not a photograph, the appalled shopkeeper asks? The policeman prefers his method: "Pierces the imagination, see. Gings up the memory. It's an old Scottish method."

The story's main victim and another heart-breaking episode, in which just one dying man's face, barely describe the tone of the novel. "History," as Shea notes, "is a bigger when you are in it." A man whose self-image demands that he always do the public thing, Shea gets caught on the wrong side of a lot of history, gives his small-town, small-time opportunities. A combination of malice and his own and generosity—he intends customers four months' credit while his suppliers give him only two—eventually drive Shea into bankruptcy, which turns out surprisingly well for him. Shea's self-destructive tendency is at once reinforcing, yet Kenally's nuanced portrayal ultimately renders the character endearing. And *A River Town* proves to be an absorbing tale of a stubborn outsider who refuses to yield to circumstance or fate.

BRIAN KETTLER

# Nokia keeps Cathy in the swing of things.



Cathy Johnson: Volunteer and Mother of two



When she's not helping raise funds for her favorite charities, Cathy Johnson donates her time as a volunteer buyer for the North York General Hospital Gift Shop. She's an avid reader, dancer and golfer and tries to spend as much time as possible at the cottage. On top of all that, she's married and the mother of two children. Keeping track of Cathy's schedule is no easy feat. Just ask her family and friends that thanks to Cathy's Nokia cellular phone

they don't have to. All they have to do is remember her phone number. Staying in touch isn't the only reason why Cathy chose Nokia cellular. She also appreciates Nokia's generous use of ergonomic design—things like the over-ear display easy to see keypad, 50 location alphanumeric memory and simple menu commands that let her access any feature. Plus there are a variety of convenient accessories available, including handheld car kits, in-car rapid chargers and long life batteries.

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**Argento (left) in *Beyond Rangoon* (right) action**

vision. Traveling with excess seasonal baggage, she has journeyed to Southeast Asia with her sister (Frances McDormand) in 1989 to escape the memory of finding her husband and child murdered in their home. Luis is a doctor who can no longer stand the sight of blood, but in Burma she will see more than her share. Back alone in Rangoon after losing her passport, she persuades a guide to take her on an illegal tour of the countryside. Then, during a vicious military crackdown on the pro-democracy movement, she and the guide (Annette Bening) profess to be her father, desperately fighting for their lives.

Seduced by a clumsy script, Argento delivers her lines with a stunted innocence that often rings false. But in *Beyond Rangoon*, actors speak louder than words and the movie's real star is McDormand's laconic career. The director puts his characters through a harrowing gauntlet—and, as a filmmaker, never plays a personal role, with actors serving as muddy vessels of escape.

Along the way, the movie drains the horror of Burma's countryside (which killed thousands of people and forced a mass exodus of refugees). It says because it democracy leader Jang San Sun Kyi (who won the 1991 Nobel Peace Prize and was released last month after six years of house arrest) And through the guide, graciously played by newcomer U Aung Ko, Burmese pass the Burmese people to the forefront of the drama. But, sadly enough, for a movie about something that matters, *Beyond Rangoon* isn't worth a second thought.

## TEMPTATION OF A MONK

Directed by Clint Eastwood

Discovering monks and soldiers in *Beyond Rangoon*, the heroism guide says, "We'll spend a little time on a monk, but once a soldier always a soldier." That pretty well sums up *Temptation of a Monk*, a constant epic in seventeenth-century China. General Shi (Gao Xingjian) is a pious, olden Rando who has betrayed his prince. Taking refuge among Buddhist monks, he tries to wage himself from sin and resist the seductive Princess Sorrel (Jean Chén), who shares her head to win his heart. Directed as a somber melodrama by Hong Kong's Chen Lau, *Temptation* is a gender-odd spectacle. But you know that after slow-motion showers of sparring blood, gold makeup on men, hanging gibbets, flaming arrows—and a formal sex scene in a temple between two lovers with shaved heads—cannot be bad.

IRHAIN D. JOHNSON

## FILMS

# Outward bound

Three movies track lost souls in exotic lands

## COUNTRY LIFE

Directed by Michael Blumenson

It has been a good year for Russian playwright Anton Chekhov, suddenly a hot screenwriting property 81 years after his death. Last spring, with the sublime *Nagay on 42nd Street*, French director Louis Malle filmed Chekhov's *Uncle Vanya* as a rehearsal in a dilapidated theatre. Now British theatre director Michael Blumenson turns the score play into a template for *Country Life*, an amusing comedy of misadventure that was set on the Australian frontier in 1913.

Although Blumenson wrote his own script, he modified his characters on Chekhov's country estate. Uncle Vanya becomes Uncle Jack (John Hartnett), a hard-drinking sheepherder who runs the estate with his wife, Sally (Gerry Foy). The wife is diagnosed when Sally's father, the snobbish Alexander (Blumenson), comes home after 22 years in London, where he has made his name as a top theatre critic. On his arm is Deborah (Kirsti Scott), a bride half his age, who falls for the frontier charm of Dr. Max (Sam Neill), a physician-on-horseback whose house calls turn into sleepovers.

Translating *Uncle Vanya*'s rural world to the grungy frontier, Blumenson has given it a cartoonish edge. His rural world of British colonialism is not very Chekhovian, but it is a worthy hybrid. As the sheepherding doctor, Neill captures his character's rugged virtue with a shy, flustering intelli-

gence. As a woman trapped in the shadow of her taciturnity, Scott is cruelly well cast. And Blumenson's impetuous, party-fellows Alexander is a host. *Country Life* does not improve on Chekhov, but it colonizes him with delicious sagacity.

## BEYOND RANGOON

Directed by John Boorman

It is a tale of an American, trapped by martial law in a hot country—a political thriller in the tradition of *Killing Fields* (1984) and *The Year of Living Dangerously* (1983). Just as these films dramatized fascist terror in Cambodia and Indonesia, *Beyond Rangoon* exposes atrocities in Burma through a tourist's eyes. It is a movie with a mission. But above all, it is a movie by John Boorman (Governor), whose mission is to take the camera on wild rides through exotic locations. Boorman is Hollywood's answer to the adventure vacation business, and *Beyond Rangoon* shows him in peak form. Filming as the people of Myanmar (looking for one offshoots Burma), the British director delivers some after some of exciting action and suspense, framed by breathtaking images of tropical landscapes, snow and lakes. What is not to say that *Beyond Rangoon* is beyond approach?

The story gets off to a viable start. Patricia Argento (Annette Bening) arrives in Laisa, a character with altogether too much moti-

## COUNTRY PRINCESS

It is the August holiday weekend, but there is no rest for Shania Twain. New country music's hottest new sensation is busy paying her dues in the industry that has helped to make her one of its latest rising stars. Under the glow of spotlights, Twain delivers a day-long photo shoot at a Toronto studio, posing for a series of portraits to be used on billboards, her stickers and posters. She had spent most of the day before at Canada's Woodlands, a theme park north of Toronto, choosing a music festival sponsored by a country music station. There, she hosted and modeled for her own first current hit, *Any Man of Mine*—without the benefit of a backing band. The completed, and it turned out to be the highlight of the day, with the audience of 3,000 singing along to every word. Long after the festival was over, Twain was still signing autographs. "It was a long day and a lot of work," recalls the singer, stifling a yawn as she rushes to a sports car from the downtown photo shoot to the Toronto airport. But she still feels an inner twinkle. "You just want to"

Too true. The life of Shania (pronounced Shan-ee-ah) Twain is a rags-to-riches story that reads like a Hollywood script. Hal Ojibwa,

street her own songwriting stuff, Twain has blossomed into the perfect female star for the trendy urban love of new country music. Like Garth Brooks, she has a sound that is country-infused but not too western, blending fiddles and pedal-steered with rock guitars and pop harmonies. Meanwhile, her image is a fusion of wholesome country girl and sultry city sophisticate. Says Shania Funder, president of NCK, Canada's new country television network: "Shania's a woman of the '90s. She's so polished and she knows what she wants. Her attitude makes her very appealing to both kids and women." That attitude comes across loud and clear in her current hits and other songs on her album (*If You're Not in It for Love I'm Outta Here*) is a sly put-down of pickup artists along with a macho swagger. But on the slow waltzes called *The House of Me*, her love is gentle. Twain strikes a more vulnerable note. "I'm not always strong," she sings, "and sometimes I'm even weak."

Yet Twain has taken five major steps in her career. The second of five children born to Gerald Twain, an Ojibwa forester, and his Irish-Catholic

wife, Sharon, Shania showed an early love of singing that her parents, both country music fans, quickly sensed on. They would wake her up at night to go to sing their favorite country tunes at the Matinees hotel in Timmins. "It's awkward to be in a bar when everyone's drunk and smoking," recalls Twain, "but I had to do it anyway." She began writing her own songs at 22 and, throughout her teens, her mother quipped her in talent contests and managed to have her appear on *Q107 Radio*, *The Today Show*, *Shaw* and other TV programs. It was an extraordinary childhood, she recalls, because she felt pressure to succeed. Coming from a poor family," says Twain, "the only thing that's going to get your children anywhere is to just push like hell. And that's what my mother did." Still, she credits her parents with providing a loving family environment. And she has fond memories of spending time in the bush with her father, who taught her how to hunt, trap and wield a chainsaw. At 16, Twain was working for her

leading restoration crews of mostly native workers.

Ironically, it was the tragic death of her parents that forced her to take her singing career seriously. They were driving to a job in the bush, she recalls, when they collided head-on with a loaded logging truck. "All they heard was a hum and then we're in," she says quietly. At 21, Twain suddenly became someone's mother to her younger siblings. With the help of Mary Bailey, a local friend and a former country singer her self, she landed a job in Waterville, Ont., and moved there with her family. For three years, she performed six nights a week at the posh Deerhurst Resort, singing everything from Broadway show tunes to pop standards. There she dropped her given name, Shalane, and adopted the stage name Shania—Ojibwa for "To go away."

By the time her siblings went off on their own, Twain was ready to set her sights on a recording career. Bailey was losing her manager in 1990, arranged for Nashville attorney Richard Frank to hear her sing at Deerhurst. Impressed, Frank in turn introduced Twain to Harold Shultz, then boss of Mercury Records, who quickly signed her. But Shania did not expect Twain's general mix of newsworthy and her 1993 self-titled debut album, a massive collection of country tunes by other writers, created little excitement.

One of the videos for that album, however, did attract the attention of Lange, then in England working on albums by Adams and Bow. When *Made in the Shade* hit, he heard a vociferous Twain bellowing on a tropical beach with a bare-chested hunk. Like a written schoolboy, Lange immediately contacted Bailey to express his interest. Although a huge name in the rock world, Lange was unknown to Bailey and Twain, who simply sent back an autographed photo of the singer. But Lange persisted and eventually convinced Twain that he was serious about her career. The two began a series of long-distance phone conversations about her songs and something clicked. Recalls Twain: "Matt was so in tune with me, he's exactly like a huge country fan out, before we knew it, we started writing songs right there on the phone."

Lange finally met the singer in Nashville in June, 1993. They were married in December of that year at Deerhurst and began work on *The House of Me* a few months later. According to Lange, Twain expressed many of the songs she had already written for the album simply by pushing her to take them further. "He sends me away and says, 'No, that lyric's not quite there yet,'" she explains. "He's making me a much better writer." Indeed, Lange transformed many of Twain's songs from generic tunes into more sensitive declarations of a woman's needs. "Any Man of Mine" was originally called *The Man of Mine*. Says Twain: "It was all about how grumpy and over-the-top this guy was. But Matt came up with a new lyric that changed the whole tone. We wrote it and the lyrics became gentler and, really, more like me." It is the version that became so popular, she brushes off any guy who can't appreciate her for herself. "Any man of mine'll say I'm just right when last year's dress is just a little too tight." In the equally lusty *House of Me* (now *Shania's House of Me*), she confronts a man who has been unfaithful.

Now, having conquered radio and television, country's new princess must prove herself on stage. Although she recently performed on *The Tonight Show* and sang that a couple centers at Canada's Woodlands, Twain has never toured. That will happen, says Bailey, when the singer finds time to assemble and rehearse her own band. And Twain is clearly up to the challenge. After the death of her parents and the huge responsibilities that came on top of the grief, she says, "I know that I can never be that over-whelmed again." Her career may suggest a charmed existence, but there is so much Twain's gift as lady that in Shania Twain's phenomenal success

Her album featuring *Any Man of Mine and Whose Bed Have Your Boots Been Under?* has gone double platinum

## Rising star Shania Twain fought hard for her newfound success

the singer, who turns 30 on Aug. 26, has had to fight hard to overcome the poverty and tragedy of her early life in Timmins, Ont., and become Nashville's Cinderella, complete with a skyrocketing contract. Twain's prince is Robert John (Bobby) Lange, a top record producer who sits next to Michael Bolton, Bryan Adams and Del Lord. They married two years ago and have since created one of country music's hottest-selling albums. Released in February, *The House of Me*—kismet! her two sexy hits, *Any Man of Mine* and *Whose Bed Have Your Boots Been Under?*—has gone double platinum in Canada and the United States, crossing sales have passed 300,000 and two million copies respectively.

But Twain's breakthrough is as much the result of career marketing as it is a product of her creative chemistry with Lange, who produced and co-wrote the album. Her management attracted Hollywood's husband-and-wife photography team of John and Deirdre, who were quick to exploit Twain's undeniable beauty in her recent videos and album artwork. Says Gary Hamilton, program director at Calgary country music station CHRT: "Part of the reason of country music today is sex appeal, and Shania's sexuality sang."

Over a plate of French fries and a ginger ale at a Toronto airport restaurant, Twain, on her way home to the 3,000-acre estate she shares with Lange near New York's Lake Placid, admits that she finds her skyrocketing career something that the well-known singer says that neither her sound nor her image is centered. "My whole thing is I want to be respected," and the diminutive Twain, looking casually stunning in a white T-shirt and blue jeans. "I don't want to be a product of anything—whether it's a photographer, a makeup artist, a record label or even a producer. I just think Matt's been able to bring out the best in me." Lange's production style has given *The House of Me* a strong, radio-friendly sound. But he also took Twain seriously as a songwriter—something Nashville had never done. "With a talented, sophisticated producer at the helm and a chance to



Twain of photo sessions and at her album launch (left). "I'm not in it for love!"

WITH MICHAEL O'NEILL/GETTY IMAGES

NICHOLAS JENNINGS



# Playing politics—the Canadian way

BY ALLAN FOTHERINGHAM

Warren Allmand is a politician without a role. Because he is unopposedly minded, he is in purgatory. Because he is stubborn and sticks to his guns, he has no future in the House of Commons.

If he were in the American political system, he would have died. The American political system encourages independence. The Canadian political system demands subservience.

Allmand, born his Montreal midget, has been in the Commons since the Trudeau years. He was in the Trudeau cabinet. But then the Liberals decided he wasn't subservient enough. He has been shut out of the cabinet ever since, allotted a prominent seat in the chamber because of his seniority—as Commons tradition demands—but forever kept out of the inner circle that the prime minister can use.

The American presidential race has suddenly become quite an exciting spectacle—because Americans cherish independence. Senator Bill Bradley, who is so conservative that he has won the same blue suit and tie over since he gave up professional basketball, is about to challenge his Democratic buddy Bill Clinton for the White House.

This follows the rising signs of Ross Perot, the brawler with the bad haircut, who took one-fifth of the presidential vote last time and threatens to cause more mischief in 1996.

This prompts the entry—somewhere in the maze—of the disgraced Colin Powell, first black with a real chance of making it in the White House. He won't tell us (as he lurches in his natural bookish form) whether he is Democrat or Republican. (Neither did he. Eisenhower said the lurch) nearest and it didn't hurt him later.)

Senator Bob Dole, the Wily Republican candidate, is strongly hinting that he would like Powell as his vice-presidential mate. Powell will be there somewhere.

And that's not even to mention Newt Gingrich, who is set to try for the third time because the Democrats challenge. And



Connecticut Governor Lowell Weicker, who is threatening to run as an independent. And Don Quayle, who says he still wants to be president and simply counts out there will be an more presidential election before he is 60 "and still younger than Bob Dole's 72."

The lucky Americans may see a hard burner with six presidential candidacies next year. And in Canada? Warren Allmand sits in his lonely seat, with a work ethic and a mind superior to a clutch of no-hopers in the shallow end of the Liberal column. He will remain where he is.

He will remain there because Canadians have only one choice as prime minister: Jean Chrétien. The bestest man in politics has no opponents. The Leader of Her Majesty's Almost Loyal Opposition wants to break up the country. The leader of the party that is only one unit away from being the Opposition is loved also just two provinces—British Columbia and Alberta—and thanks

his way into power is to demand the return of the moon, which will never happen. And neither will he.

Allmand will remain a Liberal cabinet because Chrétien is—under the parliamentary system—an elected dictator for five years. He has more absolute power than any American president. The Yanks ingeniously structured their system that way because they hated and rebelled against the British system. Chrétien has that power because we've adopted—and never adapted—the British system.

Is why Chrétien can say, as he did, that any insignificant Liberal backbencher who votes against his government will not have their papers signed come next election.

Under the American system, bright and tough guys lose insignificant places and become pawns in Congress. Senator William V. Roth, Jr. from little Arkansas defied his president on Vietnam. Senator Mike Mansfield from little Montana was a Congress heavyweight for decades. Senator Teddy Kennedy from little Massachusetts is an obstacle that every president has to reckon with.

Bill Bradley, an All-American at Princeton who turned down the New York Knicks backbencher to go to Oxford on his Rhodes scholarship, is a methodical man. His education complete, he returned and guided the Knicks to the NBA championship. Everything he has done through three terms has been methodical.

The fact that he now thinks the yuppie politics culture at Washington is so stale, that he will write out on his own, indicates the old politics may be over.

That's why Powell is so carefully dancing and so say: That's why the opportunistic little Iliad Perot is back to his racket.

Americans like guys who take chances. Canadians like guys who take their time and play by the rules and eventually are rewarded. That's why Chrétien is where he is.

The only problem is that it leaves no room for those of sound but important rank, who have no thrust for the top, but want to stick by their guns. A.F. Fotheringham A.M.

The whole rise of the Reform vote in Western Canada was based on that complaint, that the hegemony of Central Canada takes all the chance at powerful ministers racing from the regions.

Some day—not soon but some day—the increasingly critical electorate is going to demand that there must be some way to combine the best of the untried Canadian system with the best the American show is an example.

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# The Acura 3.2TL. Satisfies your desire for luxury and passion for power.



The V-6 powered 1996 Acura 3.2TL

An appreciation for every nuance of luxury and performance was the foundation on which the Acura 3.2TL was designed. With its pedigree 200 hp V-6 engine, gate shift automatic transmission and 4-wheel independent double-wishbone suspension, agility and power are delivered quietly and effortlessly. The 3.2TL exudes luxury with a spacious leather-trimmed interior and 8-speaker stereo system with standard CD player. Comfort abounds with automatic climate control and power seats and sunroof, while a trunk pass-through with ski sack and keyless entry provide the ultimate in convenience. And for peace of mind, there's Acura-designed ABS, dual air bags (SRS), steel side-impact door beams, security system, the Acura Maintenance Program and Roadside Assistance. Now, satisfy your sense of curiosity by arranging a test drive at your nearest Acura dealer. Designed with purpose. Driven by passion.



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